

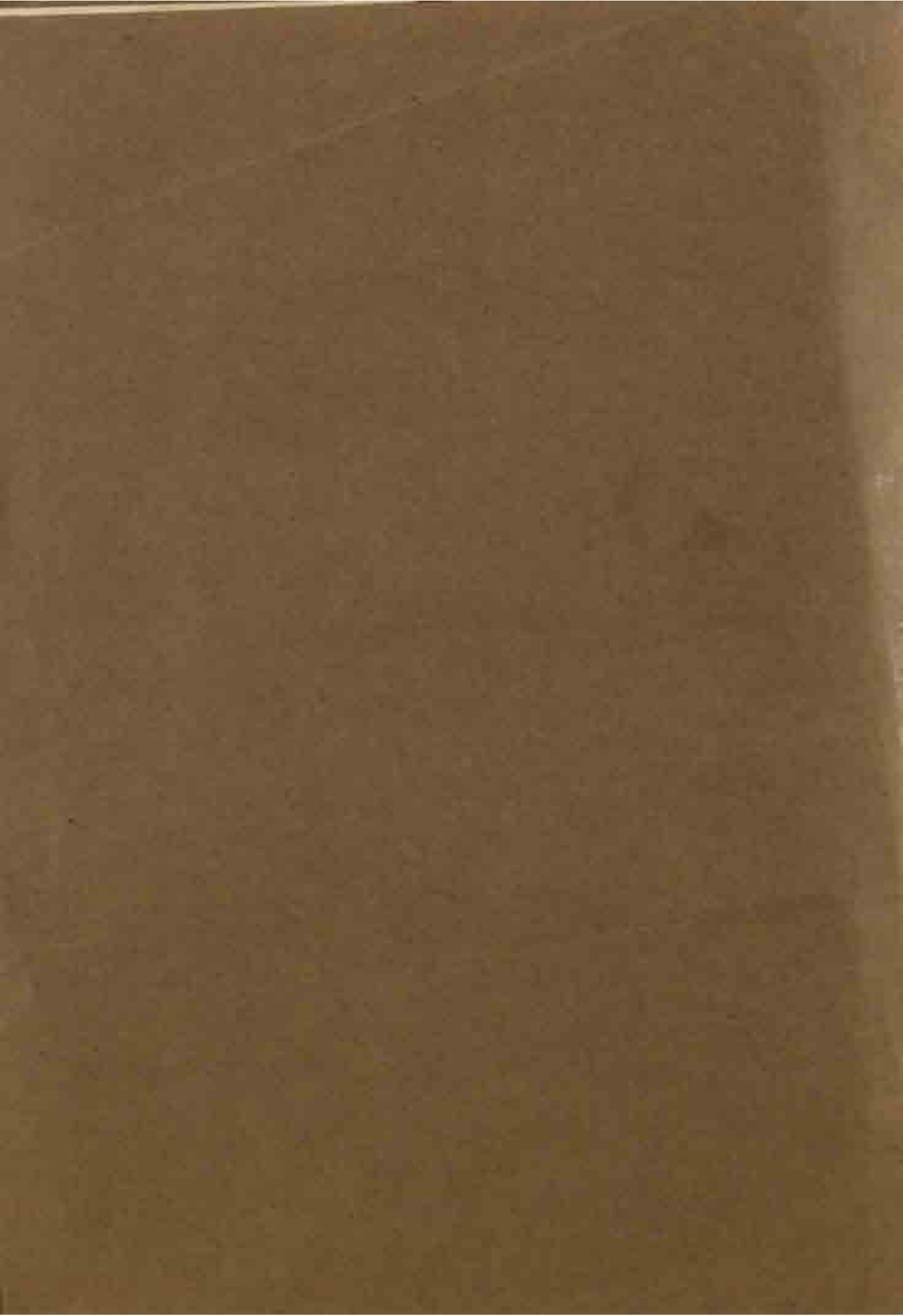
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ICONOGRAPHY  
OF THE  
HINDUS, BUDDHISTS AND JAINS





# ICONOGRAPHY OF THE HINDUS BUDDHISTS AND JAINS

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To  
*DADA AND VAHINI*  
and  
*NATHA AND KAMALAVAHINI*  
with affection



# FOREWORD

DR. R. S. GUPTE'S publication of *The Hindu, Buddhist and Jain Iconography* acquires seminal significance in view of the current interest in reviewing the Indian cultural heritage through a new perspective. This volume not only bridges the yawning gap in properly evaluating the representations of the icons belonging to the three major religions of India but also provides a thorough and comprehensive survey of the subject matter. Dr. Gupte's perceptive treatment of a rather complex subject and his lucid exposition of the subject enable the general reader to comprehend a host of intricate religious and cultural configurations.

The plan and the structuring of this book together with diagrammatic illustrations and the relevant photographic reproductions, provide an overview of the significance and the temporal and spatial variations of the icons, and might well shape and establish the attitudes and responses of both the general readers and the researchers in this area of knowledge. The reader might discover for himself, how Dr. Gupte's treatment of the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain iconography, beginning with exploratory suggestions becomes gradually comprehensive. The plethora of gods and goddesses and numerous minor deities in Hinduism with their variant names and special attributes are categorised and succinctly presented in the discursive segment of the chapter dealing with Hindu iconography. The tabulated segment makes it easier for the reader to readily recognize and identify the several godheads. The chapters on Buddhist and Jain iconographies also serve a similar purpose. The book has several merits and the excellent and comprehensive treatment of the iconographies of the three major religions of India in a single volume makes it singularly handy and is thus doubly welcome. I greet this latest scholastic venture of Dr. Gupte and have great pleasure in recommending it to students of Indian art and architecture.

R. P. NATH

*Vice-Chancellor, Marathwada University*

Aurangabad





# PREFACE

I need no excuse for writing this book. There is no single book at present which covers the iconographies of the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Jains in its entirety. This is the first book which covers this area in a single volume. A book which would provide information about the icons of the three Indian religions was perhaps not only necessary but also overdue.

During millennias, the Indian sub-continent produced vast mythologies of gods and goddesses, semi-divine beings, rakshasas and rakshasis. The Westerner is baffled by the numberless deities he sees looking at him from the walls of its numerous rock and structural temples. Many of these deities have numerous hands, and heads while quite a few of them are zoomorphic. It is difficult for a non-Indian to comprehend how the God of Learning could have the head of an elephant or how a God could take the form of a boar. The Westerner can understand God with anthropomorphic forms. The Bible says that God made man in his own image. So a God who looks like man is atleast credible. Any deviation from this man-like ideal therefore seems a departure from Godliness. If, however, it is accepted that God does not or need not resemble man, and that the form of the *Homo sapiens* is merely used as a tool to comprehend the idea of deity, then it may not become necessary to insist on a photographic resemblance between God and man.

To the Indian God is *nirākāra* (formless or without form), *nirguṇa* (without attributes), and *nirvikalpa* (beyond Time). When the artist tried to translate the idea of God in plastic terms, he gave him attributes to suggest his power. Since it was imagined that the power of God was great, he was given numerous hands to hold the physical symbols of power like the bow and the arrow, the trisula and the chakra. The numerous heads of the deity are merely suggestive of his great wisdom. The nimbus of the Buddha is merely a receptacle for his Bodhi.

Generally God is represented as standing on a lotus. It is not a human god standing on a real lotus. The pictorial representations are mainly symbolic. The artist was aware that a lotus cannot sustain the weight of a human being. The artist used the lotus as a symbol of purity and of self-creation. As the lotus springs from the water, God too springs from the Primeval Waters.

This book attempts to introduce the layman, both foreign and Indian, to the iconography of the three important Indian religions. In the introductory chapters, the meanings of the various objects held by Indian deities in their hands and their significance has been explained. Many illustrations have been provided to make the discussion simple. Information concerning the deities has been provided in tabular form to make identification easy. Most visitors to the cave and structural temples find it difficult to identify the various deities carved there. This book will enable them to identify the numerous deities of India. That is why the book is so profusely illustrated.

The author has benefited by many excellent books on iconography. Gopinath Rao's work, *Elements of Hindu Iconography*, is a classic on the subject. But nobody could possibly handle his four volumes with ease. Khare has an excellent book on iconography, but it is in Marathi, and so is inaccessible to those who cannot read that language. Bhattashali's book is concerned primarily with the images in the



Dacca Museum, whereas Banerjea's book, *The Development of Hindu Iconography*, though it is a very scholarly work, is not helpful for identifying images. For Buddhist iconography, the best book is that of B. Bhattacharya. Some of my line drawings of Buddhist deities are after those appearing in this book, published by Firma K. L. Mukhopadhyaya, Calcutta. I gratefully acknowledge their courtesy. I am personally grateful to Mr. Mukhopadhyaya for permission to reproduce the line drawings. Other excellent books are those by Alice Getty, *The Gods of Northern Buddhism*, and Antoinette Gordon's *Iconography of Tibetan Lamaism*. On Jainism, Bhattacharya wrote a book in 1932 and no work has been published since then, though several scholars like U. P. Shah, Coomaraswamy, Sankalia and Settar have published articles on Jain deities.

The main credit for this book must go to Dr. Rustam J. Mehta of D. B. Taraporevala Sons & Co. Private Ltd., who made me write this book when I was engaged in my studies on Chalukya art. It was from him that the idea of the book and its unique tabular treatment originated. He has also seen the book through the press with his usual efficiency.

I have to thank many people for many things. I am grateful to Principal R. P. Nath, Vice-Chancellor of the Marathwada University, for writing the Foreword and to Mr. Russi Taraporevala, Chief Executive of D. B. Taraporevala Sons & Co. Private Ltd. for publishing the book.

Shri P. L. Barwal, Stenographer of the Department of History, typed the manuscript and Shri B. H. Shinde prepared the line drawings. Shri S. R. Kulkarni, Research Assistant in the Department, prepared the index. I am grateful to all of them. Shri N. A. Gore, former Librarian of the Marathwada University, Shri R. G. Jogdeo, the present Librarian, and Shri Subhedar rendered valuable library assistance. Shri T. V. Pathy and Dr. V. R. N. Prasad who belong to the University Faculty have also been of great help. Lastly I must thank my wife Nalini for her constant encouragement.

RAMESH S. GUPTA

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## KEY TO PRONUNCIATION OF INDIAN WORDS

- a—short as in 'nut'.  
ā—long as in 'calm'.  
i—short as in 'pin'.  
ī—long as in 'machine'.  
u—short as in 'bull'.  
ū—long as in 'rule'.  
r—as in 'rich'.  
ai—as in 'time'.  
o—as in 'go'.  
au—as in 'cow'.  
ch—as in 'church'.  
ñ—nasal palatal.  
ṁ—as in 'sing'.  
ṇ—nasal retroflex.  
ṭ—as in 'town', but dental.  
ḍ—as in 'dunce', but retroflex.  
ḍ—as in 'the', but dental.  
ṭh—as in 'pothole', aspirated 't'.  
ṭ—as in 'hot', but retroflex.  
ph—as in 'pin', but strongly aspirated.  
ś—as in 'shine'.  
ṣ—as in 'sheet', but retroflex.

Accents have been omitted in the case of headings and sub-headings in bold capitals and small capital letters due to technical reasons. The correct pronunciation of a word can be found from the Index.





# INTRODUCTION

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND SYMBOLS

INDIAN religious and Shilpa texts make frequent mention of the hand poses (Mudrās or Hastas), pedestals, weapons, and other objects which are associated with Indian deities. These have great significance in iconography. Each god or goddess has his or her cognizance symbols which help to distinguish him or her from other gods and goddesses of the pantheon. The Indian sculptor was thus required to be fully conversant with religious texts which described the various Indian icons. Every posture of the hand is full of meaning, every stance of a god is suggestive of some mood, every object carried in the hand has some purpose.

Gods and goddesses preside over the universe and aid ailing humanity. God protects and so one of the most common hand pose is that of protection or Abhaya. But gods also confer grace, i.e., boon. The Varada is therefore the boon-giving posture. The hand posture of Vismaya is indicative of astonishment, surprise; whereas the Yoga or Dhyāna mudrā of the hands is indicative of deep meditation. A god may be engaged in meditation or may be surprised. The various moods of the gods are thus suggested by the numerous hand postures.

Deities may sit, stand, or be in a lying down posture. The posture of a deity has to suit his mood. If he is in an aggressive mood, he may stand in the Ālīdha posture, with one leg moved menacingly forward; if he is engaged in meditation, he would sit cross-legged, with the soles pointing upwards; if he is watching sports, he may sit with one leg pendant; if he is resting, he may

be reclining on a couch. These postures are called Āsanas. Here the word āsana refers to the position of the legs; a god may be seated, standing or sleeping.

But the word āsana is also used to mean pedestal or seat on which a deity is seated, standing, or sleeping. The pedestal on which a deity sits may represent a lotus, when it is called a padmāsana. The *siṃhāsana* is a lion-pedestal. (See page 20.)

Indian deities carry a number of objects in their hands. They hold weapons and other objects, which sometimes have deep symbolism. Indian gods carry numerous weapons, like the conch (*śaṅkha*), lotus (*padma*), mace (*gadā*), wheel (*chakra*), goad (*ankuśa*), noose (*pāśa*), bow (*dhanuṣ*), arrow (*bāṇa*), shield (*kheṭaka*), thunderbolt (*vajra*), trident (*triśūla*), sword (*khadga*), spear (*śakti*), plough (*hala*), pestle (*muśala*), chisel (*ṭaṅka*), club made of bone (*khaṭvāṅga*), battle-axe (*paraśu*), javelin or trident (*śūla*), fire (*agni*), etc. Some of these symbols are very meaningful. A few of them are described below:

1. *Akṣhamālā*: The *Akṣhamālā* is a rosary and is made of beads. It may be either of the 'rudrāksha' variety, in which case it may be associated with the Rudra cult, or the 'kamalāksha' variety, probably associated with the Viṣṇu cult. The Hindu Creator-god Brahmā also carries a rosary in one of his hands. The rosary he carries is representative of 'Time'. Sarasvatī, the consort of Brahmā, and Śiva also carry it, as also do other deities.

The rosary is also held by some of the Buddhist deities. Beal tells the story of the Bodhisattva Akṣyamati who thus addressed the Buddha:



'World Honoured One, let me now present an offering to the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara.' Thus saying, he offered to the Bodhisattva a valuable necklace, who accepted it and dividing it into two parts, he presented one to Śākyamuni and another to the Buddha Prabhutaratna. The rosary is the special symbol of Avalokiteśvara, Prajñāpāramitā, Cundā, Bhṛikuṭi, Vasudhārā, etc.

2. *Chakra*: The chakra or wheel symbolises the rotation of the world, and also represents the Wheel of Dharma. It also stands for air.

In Buddhism, the chakra is symbolic of the Wheel of Law, which turns twelve times, or three revolutions, for each of the Four Noble Truths. It is represented with eight spokes, indicating the Eightfold path of salvation.

3. *Cltron*: This is the 'seed' of the universe.

4. *Daṇḍa*: A staff. If it is held by Śiva, it is indicative either of death or of Śiva teaching.

5. *Gadā*: The gadā represents 'light'.

6. *Garuda*: The Garuda is symbolic of the human mind which can soar to the sky in an instant. It is the mind that pervades the bodies of all creatures.

7. *Jaṭā*: Jaṭās of Śiva and Brahmā represent the variegated Brahman.

8. *Kalāśa*: Vase. The Hindus believe that in the beginning the universe was all water. The Earth issued out of the Primeval Water. Brahmā, the Creator-god, therefore, carries this primeval water in his vase.

In the Buddhist pantheon, the kalāśa holds amṛita or the Elixir of Life. It is the special symbol of the Bodhisattva Padmapāni, the Buddhist Creator-god as also of Maitreya, Bhṛikuṭi, etc.

9. *Khaḍga*: The khadga is a sword. It is the symbol of enlightenment. 'As the sword cuts knots, so does the intellect pierce the deepest recesses of Buddhist thoughts.' It is the special symbol of Mañjuśrī. With his sword, he destroys ignorance.

10. *Khetaka*: The khetaka is a shield. It represents Dharma, which protects like a shield.

11. *Nandi*: The Nandi is Śiva's Bull and symbolizes Dharma.

12. *Padma*: In the Hindu pantheon, the lotus arising from Viṣṇu's navel represents Maṇi—the Earth. Padma also symbolizes water and creation.

The lotus has much importance in Hindu and Buddhist pantheons. It symbolizes self-creation.

This is why the Hindu Brahmā sits on a lotus. When the Buddha was born, he took seven steps and immediately lotus flowers sprang up underneath his feet. Every Buddha is 'Svayambhū', i.e., self-existent. The padma or lotus pedestal is indicative of divinity. The Ādi-Buddha manifested himself in the form of a flame arising from a lotus. The lotus also represents the Active Female Principle or in Vajrayāna, the female sex organ.

13. *Pātra*: The Buddhist monks carry a pātra or bowl which is used for begging alms. The Indian tradition has it that when the Buddha completed four weeks of Buddha-hood, Tapussa and Bhallika, two merchants of Ukkala in Orissa, were warned by a deity that they were approaching a Buddha. The merchants came to the Buddha and offered him rice and honey cakes. The Buddha could not accept food in his hands; whereupon, the four gods of the quarters brought him a stone bowl from which he ate the food.

The pātra is semi-circular in shape. It is usually held in the hands when these rest on the lap.

14. *Pustaka*: The pustaka is a book of palm-leaves cut long and narrow or a manuscript which looks like one. In Buddhist tradition, it represents the Prajñāpāramitā scripture of Transcendental Wisdom. This book is supposed to have been given by the Buddha to the Nagas for safe keeping. Nāgārjuna recovered it from them and founded the Mahāyāna school on its teachings. The pustaka is the symbol of Mañjuśrī, Cundā, Prajñāpāramitā, etc.

The Hindu God Brahmā holds a sacred manuscript in one of his hands. It is the symbol of wisdom.

15. *Trisūla*: The trisūla represents either the triple functions of God—Creation, Protection and Destruction or the three attributes or gunas—Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. Also called *śūla*.

16. *Vajra*: The vajra is the special symbol of the Hindu God Indra. With this thunderbolt, he destroys the enemies of Hinduism.

Vajrapāni, the Buddhist Bodhisattva, also destroys the enemies of Buddhism with his vajra or thunderbolt. In Mesopotamia, the gods hold a double-trident. In India, it is the special symbol of Śiva. 'The Northern Buddhists believe that Buddha wrested the thunderbolt from the Hindu god Indra, and adopted it as a Buddhist symbol with the slight change of closing the points of the darts.' The vajras of Hindu gods show three



darts which are flat and the points of which do not touch like those of the Tibetan vajras. The Tibetan variety is round, has four darts and the points are closed. This gives it the appearance of a lotus bud. A fifth dart runs through the centre of the vajra, from end to end, making five darts, which represent the five bodies of Dhyāni Buddhas.

In Vajrayāna Buddhism, the vajra becomes the symbol of līṅga, the male sex organ.

Vajra means 'diamond'. It is indestructible. It cannot bend, it cannot break. Like the Vajrayānist Śūnyatā it cannot break or bend.

17. *Vyāghra-Chāmara*: The vyāghra-chāmara is a tiger-skin. It represents Desire (Trishṇā).

## HAND-POSES

(MUDRAS OR HASTAS)

*Abhaya*: The 'fear not' or protection-assuring posture of the hand. In this hand-pose, the hand is lifted and the palm of the hand with the fingers extended upwards, faces outwards. (Page 5.)

*Añjali*: This is the hand-pose of salutation. In this hand-gesture, the two hands are folded leaving a hollow between them. The hands thus folded rest on the chest and are kept parallel to the ground. (Page 5.)

*Bhuddhaśramaṇa*: This is the hand-pose of salutation. In this, the hand is held level with the head, with the palm facing up and all fingers fully extended. It is the mudrā of Vasudhārā and Uṣṇisavijaya. (Page 5.)

*Bhūsparśa* or *Bhūmiśparśa*: The attitude of 'touching the earth,' calling her to witness the virtue of Gautama. In this hand-pose, the right hand is placed over the right knee. The hand, with palm inward, all fingers down, touches the lotus seat below. It is the characteristic pose of Gautama and Akṣobhya, one of the five Dhyāni Buddhas. (Page 5.)

*Bhūtaśāmarā*: The hand-pose that inspires awe. In this, the wrists are crossed in front of the chest. It is one of the mudrās of Vajrapāṇi. (Page 5.)

*Chin-mudrā*: In this hand-pose, the tips of the thumb and the forefinger touch each other to form a circle, while the other fingers are kept open. The palm faces outwards. This is the hand-pose of teaching or exposition. That is why it is also called Vyākhyāna-mudrā or Sandarśana-mudrā.

*Daṇḍa-hasta* or *Gaḍa-hasta*: In this hand-pose, the arm and hand are thrown across the chest and

held straight like a staff (daṇḍa) or the trunk of an elephant (gaḍa-hasta). (Page 6.)

*Dharmachakra*: The hand-pose of preaching the Law. It signifies the turning of the Wheel of Law. In this hand-pose, both the hands are held against the chest, the left hand covering the right. It is the mudrā of Gautama, the Dhyāni Buddha Vairocana, and the future Buddha Maitreya. (Page 6.)

*Dhyāna* or *Samādhi*: The attitude of meditation. In this hand-pose, both hands are placed on the lap, right hand on left, with the fingers fully extended and the palm facing upwards. Also called Yoga-mudrā. (Page 6.)

*Harīṇa-mudrā*: In this hand-pose, a ring is formed by joining the thumb with the middle and ring fingers. The index and little fingers are kept straight. (Page 6.)

*Jāṇa-mudrā*: In this hand gesture, the tips of the middle or index finger and of the thumb are joined together and held near the chest, with the palm turned inward. (Page 6.)

*Kartari-hasta*: In this hand-pose the hand is kept level with the shoulder. The thumb and the ring finger form a ring and the index and middle fingers are kept straight up to look like the horns of a deer, in which an emblem may be held. (Page 7.)

*Katya-valambita*: This is the posture of ease. The arm hangs loose and the hand is placed on the waist. Also called Kaṭi-hasta. (Page 7.)

*Kaṭaka-hasta* or *Sinhakarṇa-mudrā*: In this hand-pose, the tips of the fingers are loosely joined to the thumb to form a ring. This is done with a view to inserting a fresh flower in the hand of the icon every day. (Page 7.)

*Kṣepaṇa*: This is the gesture for sprinkling ambrosia. In this hand-pose the hands are joined palm to palm, with the tips of the index fingers touching and turned down towards the vase containing nectar. It is the mudrā of Nāmasaṅgiti. (Page 8.)

*Namaskāra*: This is the attitude of adoration or prayer. The two hands are kept close to the chest, touching palm to palm, in an attitude of prayer. (Page 8.)

*Sānti*: Similar to Abhaya.

*Sinhakarṇa-mudrā*: See Kaṭaka-hasta.

*Sūcī-hasta*: In this hand-pose, the projected forefinger points to an object below. (Page 8.)

*Tarjani*: In this hand-pose, the projected forefinger points to an object above. It is also



used for warning or scolding someone. (Page 8.)

*Tarpana*: The hand-pose of homage. The arm is kept level with the shoulder. The palm is turned in, and the fingers slightly bent and point towards the shoulders. This is the mudrā of Namasāṅgiti. (Page 8.)

*Uttarabodhi*: This is the hand-pose of perfection. In this all the fingers are locked, palms together, with the thumbs and index fingers touching at the tips, with the fingers extended upwards. It is the mudrā of Gautama and Namasāṅgiti. (Page 9.)

*Varada or Vāra*: The hand-pose which confers grace or boon. In this gesture of the hand, the palm of the hand with fingers extended downward, is held below the wrist, as far as the hand can reach. (Page 9.)

*Vajrahankāra*: This is symbolic of the Supreme and Eternal Buddha. The wrists are crossed at the chest and hold the vajra and ghaṇṭā (thunderbolt and bell). (Page 9.)

*Vismaya*: This hand-pose is indicative of astonishment and wonder. In this hand-gesture, the fore-arm is lifted and the palm turned inward with the fingers spread out in a circular manner to denote inquiry. (Page 9.)

*Vitarka*: The mudrā of argument. In this hand-pose, the thumb and index finger are joined to make a ring. All the other fingers are extended upwards. (Page 9.)

*Yoga-mudrā*: In this gesture of the hand, the palm of the right hand is placed in the palm of the left hand. Both hands rest on the crossed legs of the seated image. This is the hand gesture of meditation and is also known as Dhyāna-mudrā. (Page 6.)

## OBJECTS HELD IN THE HANDS

*Agni*: Fire. It is used as a weapon of war. It is also used for making offerings. Śiva frequently carries Agni in one of his hands. (Page 11.)

*Akṣamālā*: Rosary of beads. It is of two types. 1. Rudrākṣa and 2. Kamalākṣa. The rosary is usually found in the hands of Brahmā, Śiva and Sarasvatī. (Page 11.)

*Ankuṣa*: Elephant goad. It is made of a small wooden handle topped by a strong and sharp metal hook. (Page 11.)

*Ātapatra*: Parasol. This is the symbol of Buddhist goddesses like Uṣṇīṣasitā, Pañcarakṣā, etc. (Page 11.)

*Bāṇa*: Arrow. It is made up of wood, tipped

with a metallic point and has feathers at its tail-end. (Page 11.)

*Bheṇḍipāla*: A vegetable.

*Bilvafala*: Wood-apple. (Page 12.)

*Chakra*: Wheel. This is normally associated with Viṣṇu. A legend from the *Śiva-purāṇa* narrates the story of how Viṣṇu secured the Wheel as a gift from Śiva to destroy the demons. In sculptural representations, it looks like the miniature wheel of a cart with spokes and all. Sometimes it is very ornamental, with jewelled ribbons running round it. (Page 12.)

*Chaitya*: Buddhist stupa, the symbol of Maitreya, the Future Buddha, and others. (Page 13.)

*Chauri*: Fly-whisk. (Page 12.)

*Chintamani flag*: Flag with the Chintamani jewel.

*Domaru*: Drum. (Pages 12, 13.)

*Darpana*: Mirror. (Page 13.)

*Dhanus*: Bow. (Page 13.)

*Dhvaja*: Flag. (Page 13.)

*Gadā*: The Indian mace. Sometimes it is held in the hand and at other times, the hand is merely placed upon the top of the mace. The gadā may be plain or ornamental. Usually it is plain. It has a tapering top, where it is held by the hand. It has a heavy and swollen bottom. It is used as a weapon in close combat. (Pages 13, 14.)

*Ghaṇṭā*—Bell. (Page 14.)

*Hala*: The Indian plough. (Page 14.)

*Jambhara*: Lemon. This is the symbol of Jambhala, the Buddhist Kubera. (Page 14.)

*Kalasa*: Vase. (Page 14.)

*Kalpātārā*: Wish fulfilling tree.

*Kamaṇḍalu*: A vessel to hold water. It is of different shapes and in some cases has a spout. (Pages 14, 15.)

*Kapāla*: Skull-cup, usually of Brahmā when it is carried by Śiva. In sculptural representations it looks like a spherical or oval bowl. (Page 15.)

*Kātri*: a small knife.

*Karttikā*: Chopper, the symbol of Tantric goddesses like Buddhasaktis, Dākinis, etc. (Page 14.)

*Kaumudi*: Half-moon.

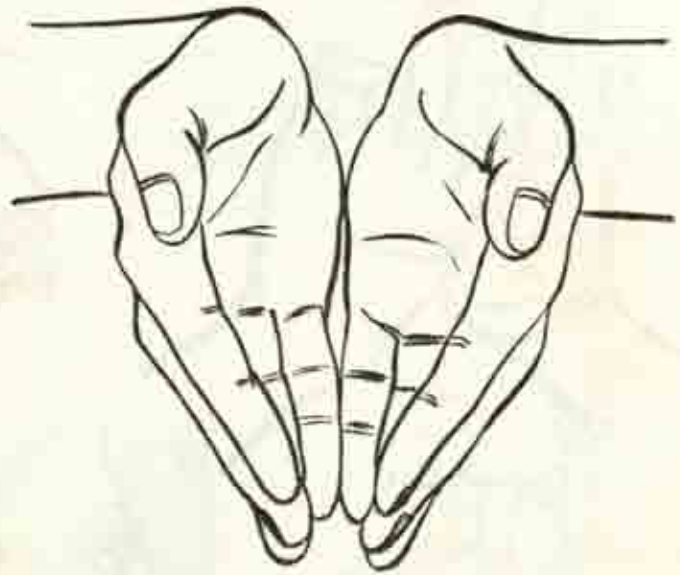
*Khadga*: Sword. It may be long or short, single-edged or double-edged. (Page 15.)

*Khakkhara*: Alarm staff. It is a long wooden staff with a metal top with a number of metal rings attached to it. Shaken to give warning. (Page 16.)

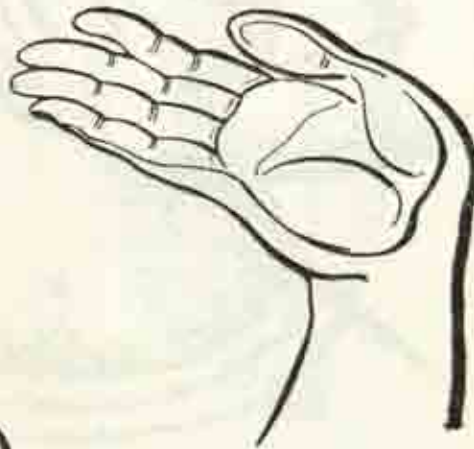
## Hand-poses



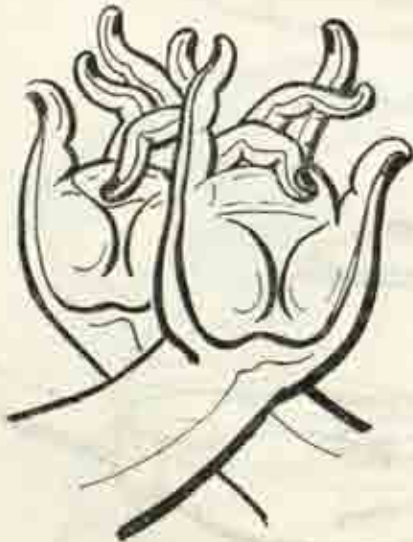
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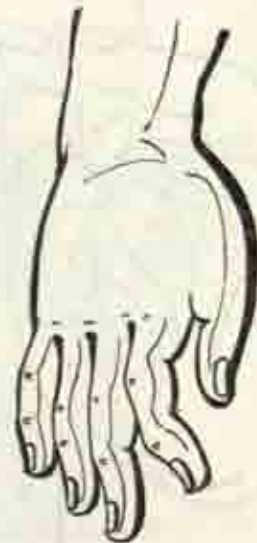
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Buddhaśramaṇa



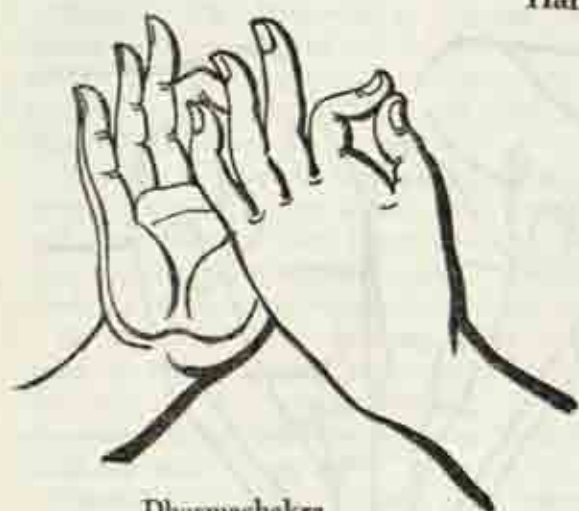
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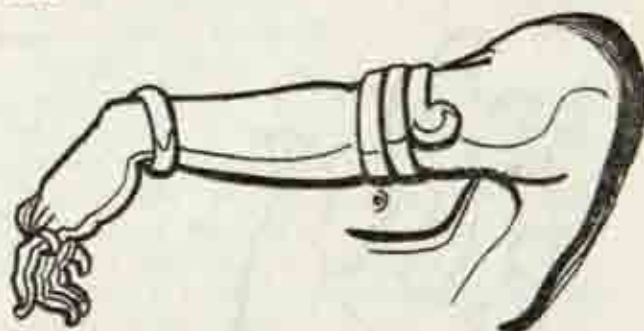
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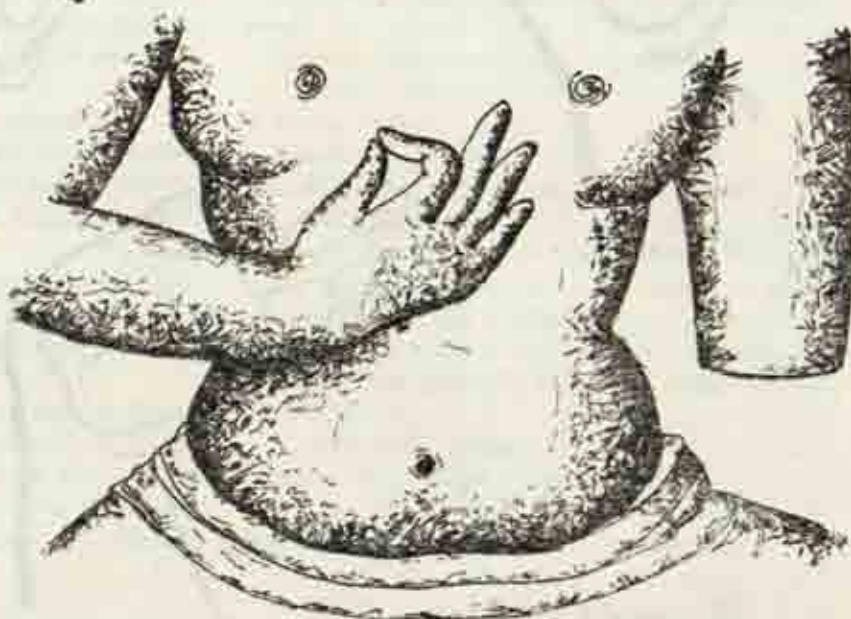
## Hand-poses



Dharmachakra



Gajahasta or Daṇḍahasta



Jñāna-mudrā



Harina mudra



Dhyāna or Yoga-mudrā

## Hand-poses



Karana



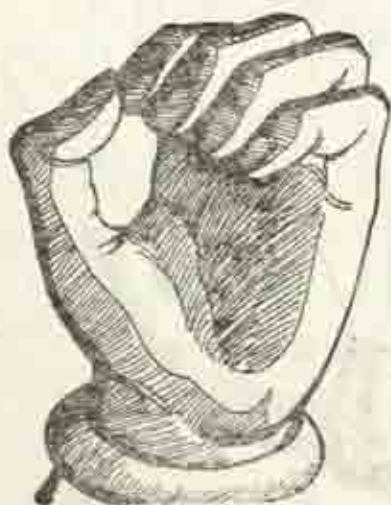
Karana



Katyavalambita



Kartari-hasta

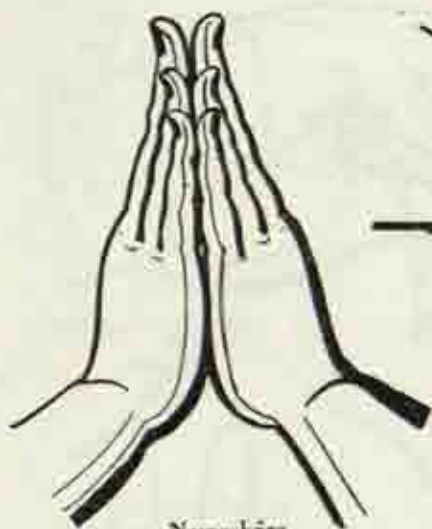


Katika-hasta or Simha-karṇa



Katika-hasta or Simha-karṇa

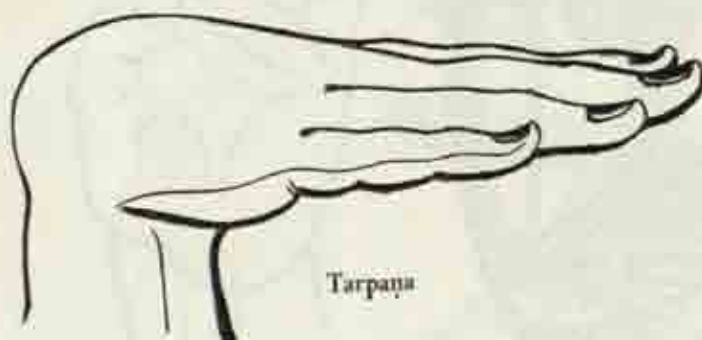
## Hand-poses



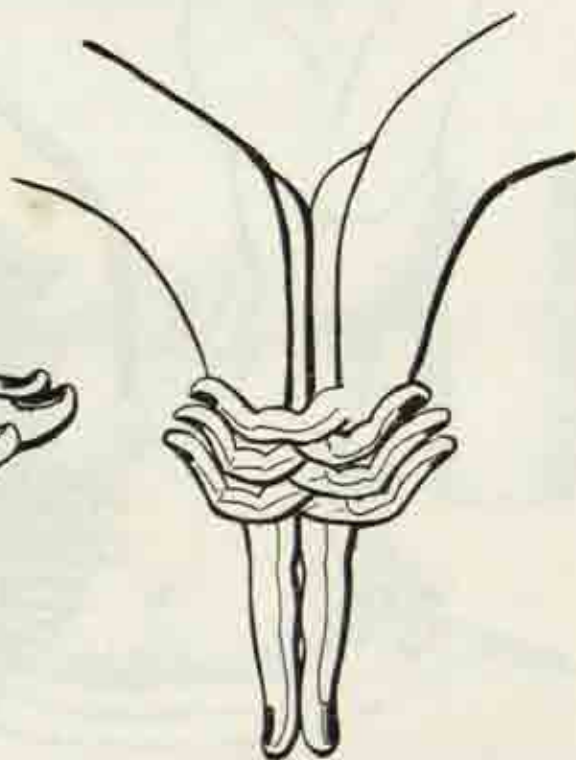
Namaskāra



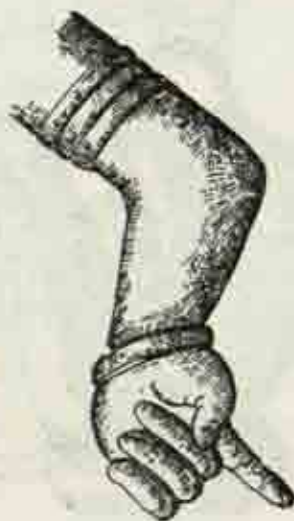
Tarjanī



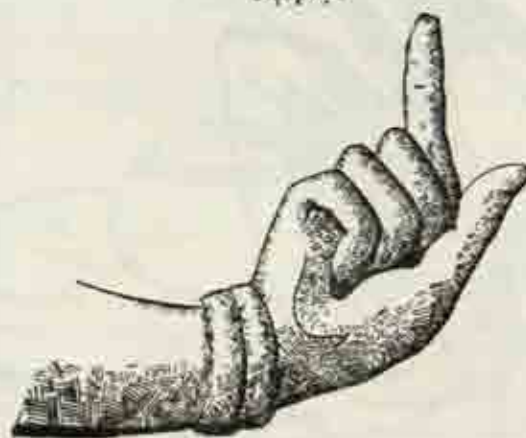
Tarpana



Kṣepaṇa



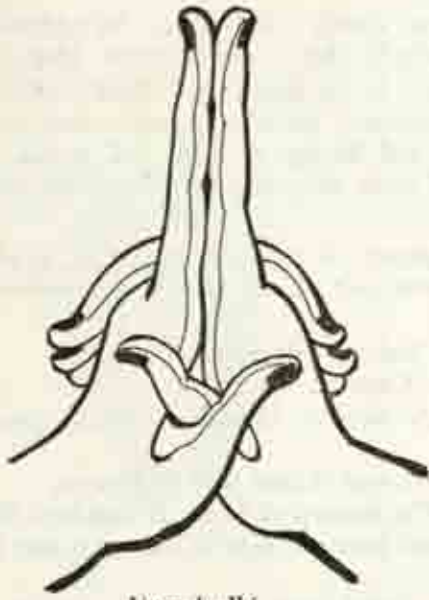
Sūchi-hasta



Tarjanī



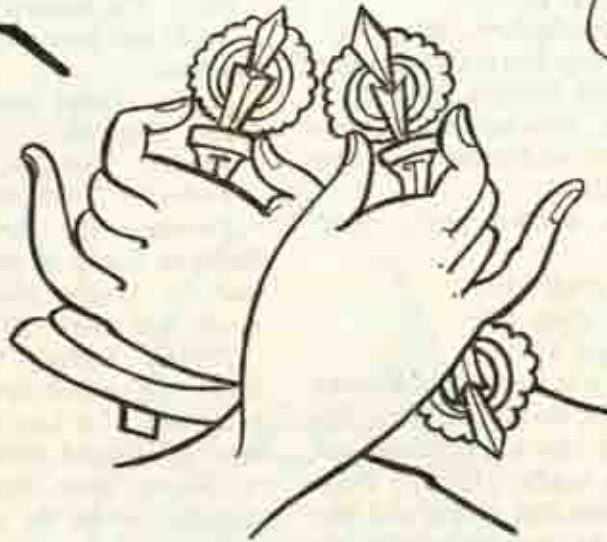
## Hand-poses



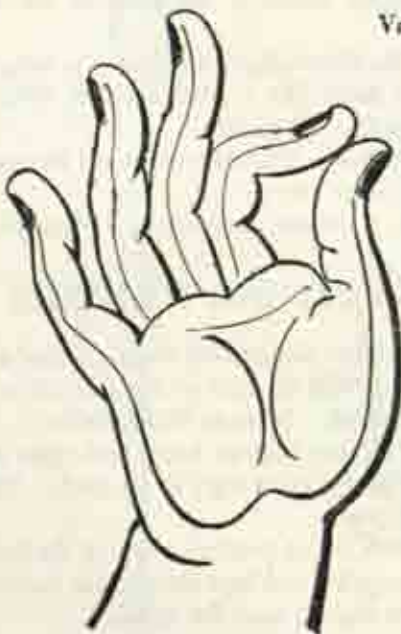
Uttarabodhi



Varada



Vajrahumkāra



Vitarka



Vismaya



Vismaya

*Khaṭvāṅga*: A kind of a club made up of the bone of the forearm or leg. To the end of this is attached a skull. It is probably a weapon which comes from antiquity. Sometimes the bone shaft is replaced by a wooden handle. It may also have been used as a ritual wand. (Pages 15 and 16.)

*Khetaka*: A shield. It may be circular or rectangular. It has a handle at the back. The face of the shield shows a variety of faces and emblems. (Page 15.)

*Kukkūṭa*: Cock. Held by Subrahmanya (Kārttikeya).

*Laddu* or *Ladduka*: A round sweetmeat dear to Gaṇeśa.

*Mahāluṅga*: A fruit held by Devi.

*Mayūrapiccha*: Peacock-feathers. (Page 16.)

*Meṣa*: Ram. Carried by Śiva in earlier images. Later images show a buck (Mṛiga). (Page 16.)

*Mṛiga*: Deer or buck. Śiva carries a Mṛiga in one of his hands in later sculptures. In earlier ones he carries a ram (Meṣa).

*Musala*: The Indian wooden pestle. (Page 16.)

*Myrobalan*: A fruit. (Page 16.)

*Nakula*: Mongoose. (Page 16.)

*Padma*: Lotus. (Pages, 16, 17.)

*Paraśu*: Battle-axe. It is made up of a strong blade of steel fitted to a wooden handle. The blade is curved and may have a hole at one end to fit onto the wooden handle. In later forms the tip of the Paraśu looks like a mace and into this the steel is fitted. In these later forms, the blade is small. (Page 17.)

*Paṇḍita*: A kind of club.

*Pāśa*: A noose of ropes. In sculptural representations, two or three ropes are shown tied together in a single or double loop. (Page 17.)

*Pātra*: Bowl. (Page 17.)

*Paṭṭika*: A layer of the pedestal.

*Paṭṭiṣa*: A long steel rod with a very sharp point at one end.

*Pustaka*: Book. It is usually a palm-leaf book and is held by Brahmā, Sarasvatī, etc.

*Pustaka on Padma*: Book on lotus. (Page 17.)

*Śakti*: Spear. It consists of a rectangular or elliptical and sharp metallic piece attached to a long wooden handle. (Page 18.)

*Śaṅkha*: Conch-shell. This is the special symbol of Viṣṇu. His conch is known as Pañchajanya, being made from the body of the demon Pañchajanya. It makes a frightening noise and

terrifies the enemies of Viṣṇu. In sculptural representations, the conch appears plain or ornamental. In the latter case, its head is covered with a decorative metal cap, surmounted by a lion-head and having a cloth tied round it. Tassels of pearls may also hang from the sides. (Page 18.)

*Śaṅkha-pātra*: A shell cut cross-wise, producing a spiral ring. Used as an ear-ornament. (Page 18.)

*Sasah*: Rabbit. (Page 18.)

*Śṛṅgala*: Coconut. (Page 18.)

*Sruk*: A circular shaped sacrificial spoon. (Page 18.)

*Sruv*: An oval shaped sacrificial spoon.

*Śūla*: The weapon of Śiva. It may look like a javelin and have one pointed dart or it may be a trident.

*Taṅka*: Chisel used by the stone-masons of India. (Page 18.)

*Tomara*: Iron club.

*Tridandī*: Triple shaft.

*Triratna*: The Three Jewels symbolising the Buddhist Trinity of the Buddha, Dharma (Law), and the Sangha (the community of Buddhist monks and nuns). (Page 18.)

*Trishūla*: Trident, the favourite weapon of Śiva. 'Tri' means three and 'śūla' means point. It consists of a long wooden handle topped by three sharp metal pikes. (Page 18.)

*Upavita*: Deer skin worn from over left shoulder, across the body and below the right arm, coming up again at the back to the left shoulder.

*Vajra*: The thunderbolt, the favourite weapon of Indra. It looks like a double-trident without a wooden handle. (Page 19.)

*Vajra on Padma*: Thunderbolt placed vertically on a lotus. (Page 19.)

*Vilva-vajra*: Double thunderbolt. (Page 19.)

## ĀSANAS (SITTING POSTURES)

*Ardhaparyāṅka*: Sitting with one leg folded and the other raised with the heel on the seat, the arm resting on the knee. Same as Mahārājālīla.

*Alidha*: Left leg bent at knee, and right leg straight but slanting at an angle to the back. This is a standing pose.

*Utkūṭika*: A sitting posture in which the heels are brought together and kept close to the bottom, with the back slightly bent for comfort.



## Objects held in Hand



Agni



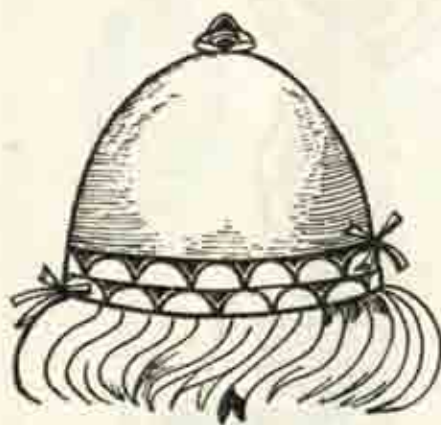
Aksamala



Ankusa



Agni



Ātapatra



Bana



Ankusa



Agni



Bāṇa

Objects held in Hand



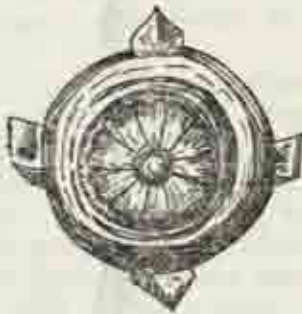
Chakra



Chakra



Bilvafala



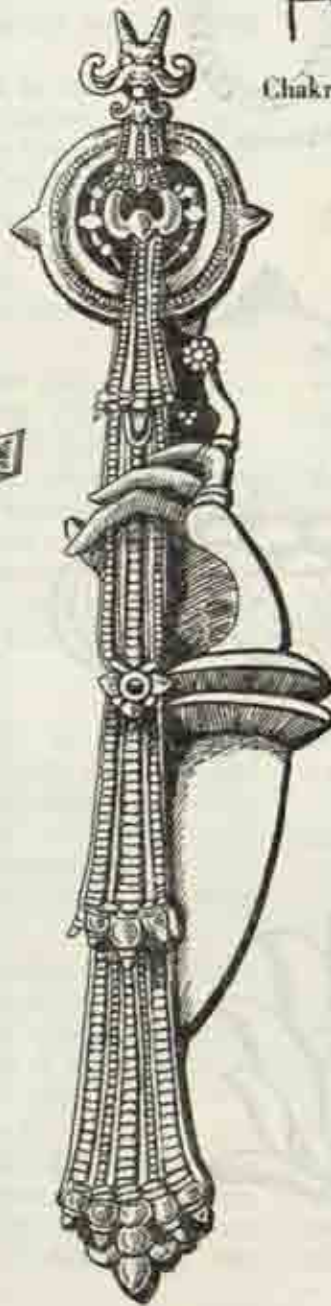
Chakra



Chakra



Damaru



Chakra



Chauri

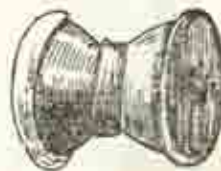
## Objects held in Hand



Chaitya



Damaru



Damaru



Dhvaja



Darpana



Gadā



Dhanus



Dhanus



Dhanus



Gadā



Objects held in Hand



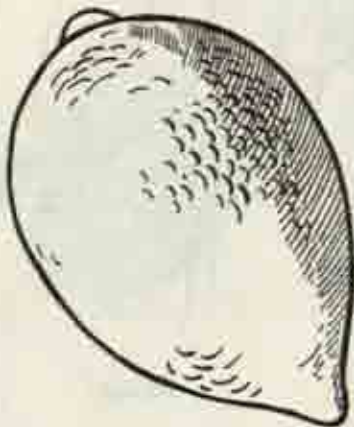
Gadhā



Hala



Gadhā



Jamblāra



Ghantā



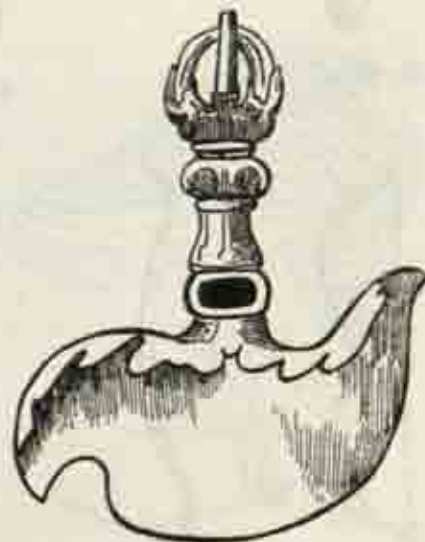
Kamandala



Gadhā



Kalaśa



Kartūka

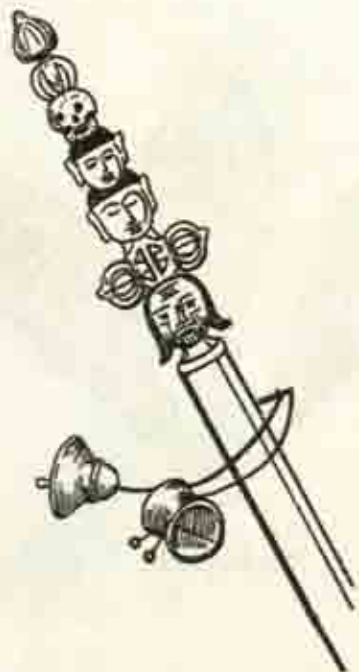
## Objects held in Hand



Kapāla



Kamandalu



Khatvāṅga



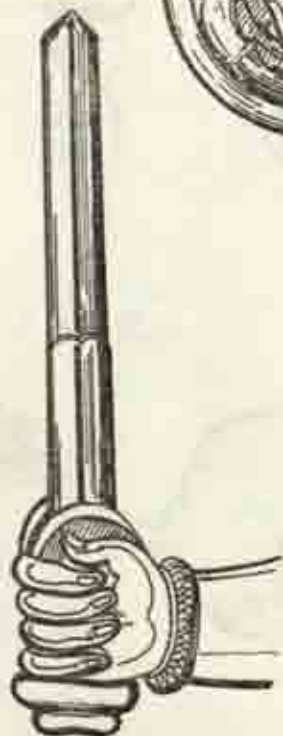
Kamandalu



Khetaka



Khetaka



Khadga

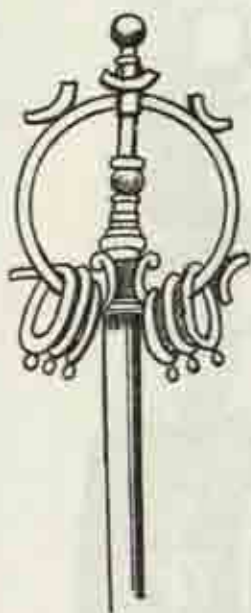


Khetaka



Khatvāṅga

# Objects held in Hand



Khakkhara



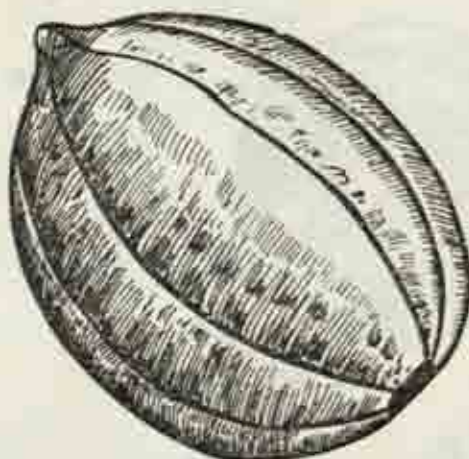
Mayūrapiccha



Khatvāṅga



Murali or Venu



Myrobalan



Musala



Padma



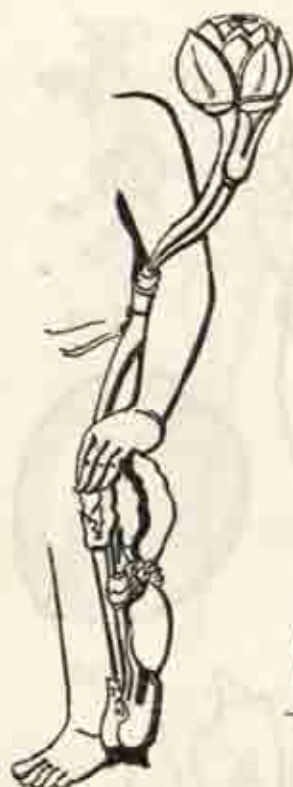
Mesa



Nakula



## Objects held in Hand



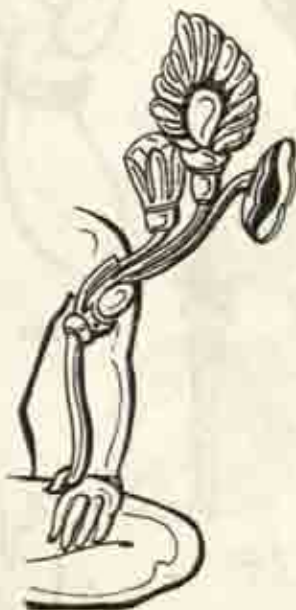
Padma



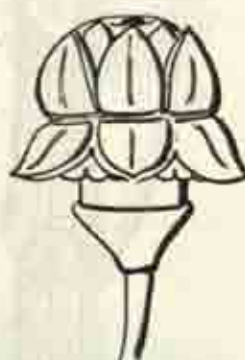
Patra-kundala



Padma



Padma



Padma



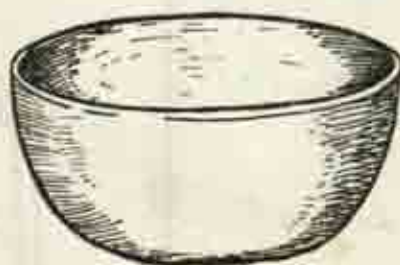
Pāśa



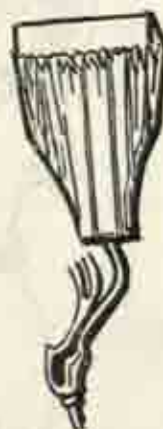
Pāśa



Paraśu



Pātra



Pastaka on Padma

## Objects held in Hand



Trisula



Taṅka



Śaṅkha



Śaṅkha



Śaṅkha-patra



Śaṅkha



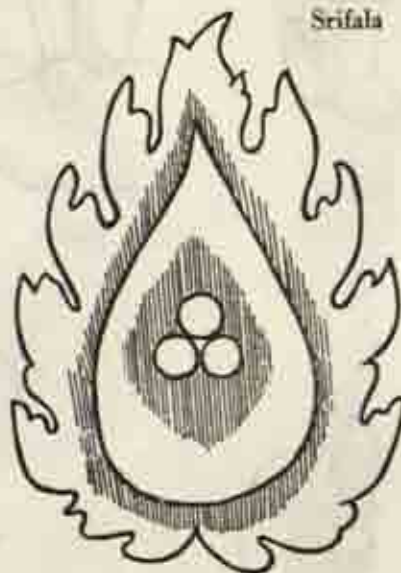
Sasab



Śrīfala



Śakti



Triratna



Śakti



Śruk



Śruk



Śruk

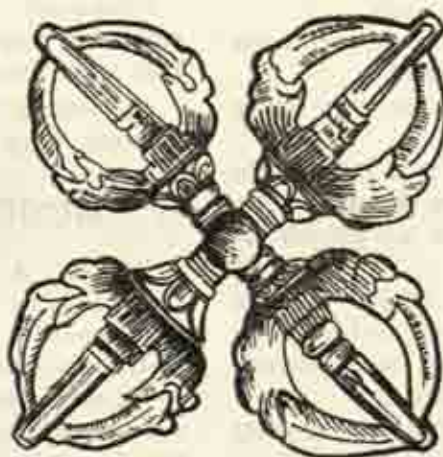
## Objects held in Hand



Vajra on Padma



Patra-kundala



Viśva-vajra



Viṇā



vajra



Padmāsana



Viṇā



**Kārma:** Sitting cross-legged with the soles of the feet touching the bottom.

**Dhyāna:** Seated in Padmāsana in the attitude of meditation. In this sitting position, the legs are crossed, with soles of the feet turned upwards, resting on the thighs.

**Padmāsana:** See Paryāṅka.

**Paryāṅka:** Sitting cross-legged, Padmāsana.

**Pralambapāda:** Sitting on a seat with both legs pendant in the Western manner.

**Pratyāldha:** Opposite of the Āldha posture. Right leg bent at the knee and the left leg stretched behind and kept straight at an angle.

**Bhadra:** Sitting cross-legged as in Kurmāsana and holding the toes with the hands.

**Mahārājaltā:** Same as Ardhiparyāṅka. Sitting at ease.

**Yoga:** Seated cross-legged, with soles of the feet turned upwards, with two hands on the lap, one upon the other, in an attitude of meditation.

**Lalita:** Sitting on a high pedestal as on a stool, with one leg hanging down and the other folded and resting on a cushion or a pedestal. Also called Savya-lalita or Sūkhāsana.

If the left leg is folded and the right kept dangling below, it is called Vāma-lalitāsana.

**Vīra:** Sitting with the left leg resting upon the right thigh.

**Vajra:** Sitting cross-legged with the soles of the feet turned upwards, the two hands resting on the knees.

**Siṃha:** Sitting cross-legged as in Kurmāsana. The palms of the hands are kept on the thigh, with the fingers stretched; the eyes are closed or concentrated on the tip of the nose and the mouth kept open.

**Sukha:** Sitting in any comfortable position.

**Sopāṣṭaya:** Sitting with legs loosely locked, the soles of the feet resting in the front.

**Sūkhāsana:** See Lalita.

**Swastika:** Sitting cross-legged with the toes of the feet touching the opposite knees.

## PEDESTALS OR SEATS

The word 'āsana' is also used to denote the pedestal or seat on which an icon is seated or standing. These are described below:

**Anantāsana:** Triangular in shape. It is usually used when viewing sports or amusements.

**Kurmāsana:** Oval in shape and is made of

wood. It has the face and feet of a tortoise. (Page 22.)

**Padmāsana:** Circular or oval in shape, and is generally used for worship. (Page 19.)

**Bhadrapitha:** Rectangular or circular in shape.

**Yogāsana:** Octagonal in shape. It is used for worship.

**Vimalāsana:** Hexagonal in shape, and is used when offerings are to be made.

**Vāya-padmaśana:** Double-petalled lotus pedestal.

**Siṃhāsana:** Four-legged and is rectangular or circular in shape. Its four legs are made up of four small lions.

**Makarāsana:** Contrived like a Makara, a sea-monster. (Page 22.)

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

**Damaru:** A small drum. Its two ends are covered tightly with membranes which are held in that position by a string which passes over the body of the drum. Sometimes a string is attached to the narrow middle of the drum and to its ends are attached small heads. These strike the membranes at the two ends and produce a variety of notes. (Pages 12 and 13.)

**Ghaṇṭā:** Bell. (Page 14.)

**Murali or Veṇu:** A flute made from a thin and hollow bamboo. (Page 16.)

**Vīṇā:** A stringed musical instrument, the favourite of Sarasvatī. It consists of a longish hollow cylindrical shaft, with a number of keys on its sides. A string or wire is attached to each of these keys and they are stretched to be tied at the lower end, where there is a square sounding box. At the upper end is a hollow gourd which serves as a resonator. (Page 19.)

## CROWNS (MUKUṬAS)

For illustrations of head-gear, see page 23.

## THE MOUNT OR VEHICLE

The deities are often accompanied by a 'vehicle' or mount which help in their identification. The bull Nandi is the vehicle of Śiva, Garuḍa of Viṣṇu, the parrot of Rati, the goddess of love, and so forth. The vehicles are mentioned in the tabular matter that follows.

## THE TĀLA SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT

In Indian iconometry, the Tāla system of measurement is used for sculpture or casting icons in metal. The face, from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the chin, is the unit of measurement and is known as the Tāla. Each Tāla is further divided into twelve Angulas, which are further sub-divided into still smaller units. Ordinary human beings are in a measure of eight Tālas (Ashta-tāla), i.e., eight times the size of the face.

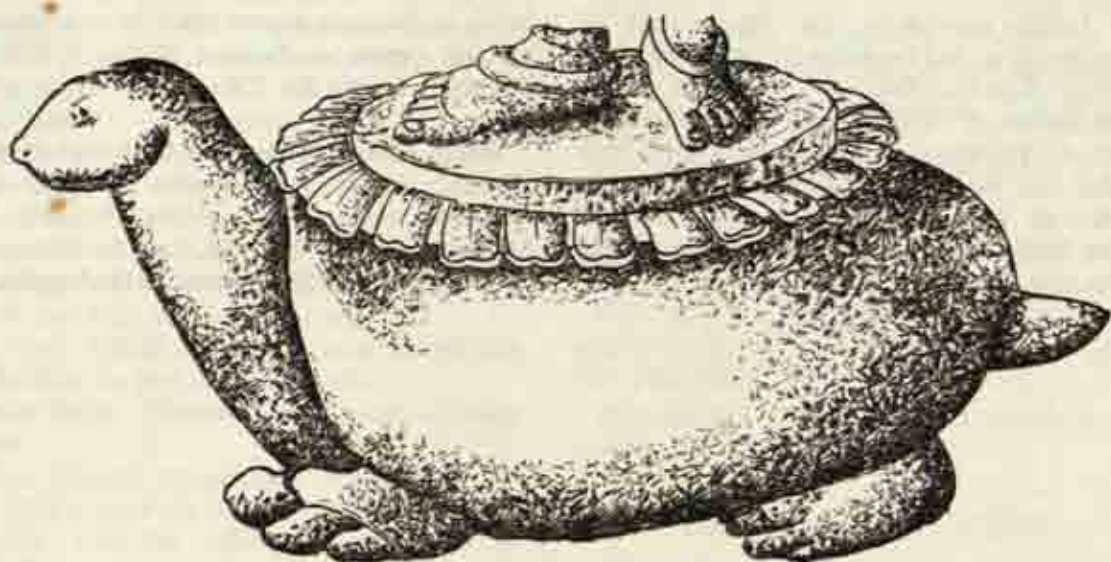
Major gods are ten times the face (Daśa-tāla), and the minor divinities and goddesses in a measure of nine Tālas (Nava-tāla). Major gods in their heroic or ferocious aspects could be in a measure of even twelve or fourteen Tālas. A Pañcha-tāla figure is only five Tālas high.

Within each Tāla measure, the image may be Uttama (highest), Madhyama (middle) and Adhama (lowest). Thus in the Daśa-tāla, the Madhyama is 120 Angulas, but the Uttama is 124 Angulas and the Adhama, 116 Angulas.





## Asanas (Pedestals)



Kurmāsana



Makarāsana

## Crowns (Mukūṭas)



Jaṭā-mukūṭa



Kirita-mukūṭa



Karaṇḍa-mukūṭa

## KEY TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR HINDU GODS AND GODDESSES

	IBRAHIMA	VISHNU	IVA	MAHEA-MURTI	DAKSHINA-MURTI-SIVA
<i>Symbols</i>	Rosary, vase, ladle, book	Mace, lotus, conch, wheel	Trident, wheel, battle-axe, club. Often a deer in one hand	Two hands in boon-giving and protection postures	<i>Right hand</i> —one in Jñāna mudra and one carries a rosary <i>Left hand</i> —boon-giving pose and fire, snake or lotus
<i>Vehicle</i>	Goose	Eagle (Garuda)	Bull	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Two, four or more	Ten	Four
<i>Faces</i>	Four, Actually only three seen	One	One	Five. Only four visible	—
<i>Hair-dress</i>	Matted hair	Kirtita crown	Matted hair	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Generally shown with a short pointed beard	Wears sometimes a flower-garland as the sacred thread	Often a crescent and serpent in the hair and third eye in forehead	—	Seated with one leg pendant

	NATARAJA-SIVA	KARTTIKEYA (SUBRAHMANYA)	GANESA	VIRABHADRA	SHESHA-SHAH-VISHNU
<i>Symbols</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —protection pose and drum <i>L.h.</i> —in Gajabhasta and fire	Two hands in protection and boon-giving poses. Others carry thunderbolt, shield, spear and sword	Elephant tooth, goad, bullock nose	Protection pose, trident, mace and boon-giving pose	Conch, wheel; one hand on head of serpent Shesha and one on knee
<i>Vehicle</i>	Stands on dwarf Apasmara, left leg lifted, turned towards right leg and kept across it	Peacock	Rat	Bull	Serpent Shesha
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Six	Four	Four	Four
<i>Faces</i>	One	Two or Six	One	One	—
<i>Posture</i>	—	—	—	—	Sleeping
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Sometimes with four faces. The peacock identifies him from Brahma. Sometimes with one head and four hands but without a deer or serpents	—	—	One foot held by consort Sri on her lap; Brahma on lotus springing out of his navel. Deities Madhu and Kaitabha near stalk of lotus



## MAJOR HINDU GODS AND GODDESSES—(contd.)

	LAKSHMI-NARAYANA	RAMA	KRISHNA	BRAHMAN	MAHESVAR	KAUMARI
<i>Symbols</i>	Lotus, conch, wheel. Fourth hand embraces Lakshmi	Bow and arrow	R.k.—curved stick. L.k.—lifted up and bent at elbow	Rosary, ladle, vase, vase	Bow, arrow, wheel and bow	Spear in both hands
<i>Vehicle</i>	Eagle (Garuda)	—	—	Goose	Bull	Peacock
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Two	Two	Four	Four or six	Two, four, twelve
<i>Feet</i>	—	—	—	Four	—	—
<i>Posture</i>	Sitting	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Accompanied by Sita, Lakshmana, Bharata and Shatrughna	Rukmini on right, Satyabhama on left	—	—	—
	VARHUNAVI	VARAHI	INDRANI	CHAMUNDA	PARVATI	GAURI
<i>Symbols</i>	Wheel, mace, conch, lotus	Staff, conch, wheel, mace	Thunderbolt in both hands	Javelin, katri, skull cup, steel staff with sharp point	Rosary, Siva, Gaopati, vase	Sula and mirror
<i>Vehicle</i>	Eagle	Bull	Elephant	Corpse	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Four or six	7	Four	Four or ten	Four	Two
<i>Feet</i>	—	Boat-face	—	—	—	—
	MAHALAKSHMI	SARASVATI	INDRA	AGNI	YAMA	NIRUTI
<i>Symbols</i>	Mahalinga, mace, shield, bowl of leaves	Bow, mace, noose, lotte, wheel, conch, pestle, goud. Some- times a rosary	Thunderbolt, lotus	Rosary, vase	Staff, noose	Sword, shield, katri, head
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Peacock	Elephant Airavata	Goat	Buffalo	Man, ass or camel
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four or eight	Two or four	Two or four	Two or four	Two or four
	VARUNA	VAYU	KUBERA	ISANA	SURYA	
<i>Symbols</i>	Noose, lotus	Boon-giving and burner	Mace and boon-giving	Trident and boon- giving	Lotus in each of two hands	
<i>Vehicle</i>	Crocodile	Stag	Man, goat (?) or horse	White bull	One-wheeled chariot driven by seven horses	
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two or four	Two or four	Two or four	Two	
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	—	Danda and Pligala on two sides carrying sword and shield	



# HINDU ICONOGRAPHY

## BRAHMĀ

THE HINDU Triad comprises Brahmā, Vishṇu and Śiva—Creator, Protector, and Destroyer, representing the creative, preservative and destructive energies of God. Brahmā embodies 'Rajo-guṇa,' the quality of passion or desire, the cause of creation. Śiva is the embodiment of the 'Tamo-guṇa,' the attribute of darkness, and the destructive fire by which the world is consumed. Vishṇu is the embodiment of 'Sattva-guṇa,' the property of mercy and goodness, by which the world is preserved.

Creation began with the Universal Spirit wishing to multiply itself, prompted by Desire. Out of Kāma or Desire came forth the primeval male god Brahmā, who created the three worlds and all life. But the act of creation involves the acts of preservation and dissolution, hence the need for a Protector-God Vishṇu, and a Destroyer-God Śiva. These three gods, charged with the tasks of creation, preservation and dissolution, constitute the primary group of deities. Around these has grown the great system of Hindu gods and goddesses with all their countless ramifications.

### ICONOGRAPHY (Pls. 1-4)

Brahmā is one of the important gods of the Hindu pantheon. Brahman is the cause of creation, Brahmā is the creator. He is called Svayambhū—self-born. In the beginning he was the Hiranya-garbha—the Golden Germ. He is called Pitāmaha—the Great Father. He is called

Kamalāsana since he sits on the lotus which springs from the navel of Vishṇu. He is called "four-headed."

In the Vedic period, Brahmā was not an important god. The idea of the Creator was present, but this creator was not yet identified with Brahmā.

The Rig Veda speaks of Vishvakarman. He is God the Father. He has heads in all the four directions. The Purāṇic Brahmā probably originated from Vishvakarman. It is interesting to note that Vishvakarman was related to the sun, since the rays of the sun were considered beneficial to human life and creation. In one hymn, the Rig Veda mentions Prajāpati as Creator. That is why later when Brahmā came to be considered the Creator, he was identified with the Rig Vedic Prajāpati.

In the Sutra literature Prajāpati and Brahmā become synonymous.

In the Rig Veda, Hiranya-garbha is mentioned as the cause of Creation. So Brahmā became Hiranya-garbha.

In Purāṇic literature, Brahmā is called Creator. He is said to have created Prajāpatis (their number and names are different in different Purāṇas) for the purpose of creation. Thus Brahmā became the Grandfather Pitāmaha.

He fell in love with his own daughter named variously Sāvitri, Brahmāni, Sarasvatī, etc., and became one with her. To look at her wherever she turned he got four faces in the four directions and the fifth on top. This is apparently a

story invented to bring him into contempt. He had another wife called Gāyatri.

Both the Śaivites and the Vaiṣṇavites have tried to belittle his importance. He springs from the navel of Viṣṇu and sits on a lotus. Śiva cuts off his fifth head as punishment for incest. These stories are indicative of the attitude of both these sects towards Brahmā.

Till the Middle Ages, Brahmā was important. After the coming of Islam, he lost his importance. Many stories were circulated about his personal character which may have led to a loss of faith in his respectability. The Purāṇas accuse him of falsely claiming to have traced the end of the Agnistambha, when he had not. Another story tells us how when his wife Sāvitrī was delayed in coming for Yaksha's sacrifice, he took another wife promptly. Sāvitrī, highly incensed, cursed him equally promptly!

Actually, Brahmā enjoyed respectability many centuries after these stories became current.

Brahmā has four faces, four arms, matted hair, and the skin of a black antelope as garment. He sits in Padmāsana in a chariot drawn by seven swans. One right hand holds rosary, another right hand holds kamaṇḍalu. He looks Saumya and Toshmya—happy and worthy of propitiation. His eyes are closed in meditation.

His four faces represent the four Vedas: the eastern—Rig Veda; southern—Yajur Veda; western—Sāma Veda; and the northern—Atharva Veda.

His four arms represent the four directions.

The whole universe evolves out of water. Therefore Brahmā carries water in a kamaṇḍalu (vase). (FOR ICONOGRAPHICAL DETAILS, SEE TABLES ON PAGES 24 and 25.)

The rosary which he is counting represents Time.

The seven Lokas (worlds) are represented by seven swans.

The lotus arising out of the navel of Viṣṇu represents Maṇi—the Earth.



## VISHṆU

HINDUS are either Vaishnavites (followers of Vishṇu), Śaivites (followers of Śiva) or Śāktās (those who offer worship to Śakti, the Divine Mother). This would indicate the great importance of Vishṇu, probably the most popular of the Hindu gods. Though in the Hindu Trinity he comes after Brahmā, Vishṇu remains pre-eminent. He is the Protector-God. Of the three gods of the Hindu Triad, Vishṇu, being the Preserver, appears most humane. In his sympathies and attributes, he is very humane and so he is the most popular.

The Rig Vedic Vishṇu is conceived as the sun in its three stages—rising, zenith and setting. The Vedic Vishṇu strides through the heavens in three steps. This is Vishṇu's great deed and constitutes his great glory. With these three steps Vishṇu, a solar deity, courses through the three divisions of the universe, 'the god being manifest in a three-fold form, as Agni on earth, Indra or Vāyū in the atmosphere and Sūrya in the sky.' He is said to have taken these three steps for the preservation and benefit of mortals. The zenith is appropriately called Vishṇu's place. His third step cannot be seen with human eyes. It is here that Indra dwells.

The idea of swift motion is consistently associated with Vishṇu in the Vedas.

His association with sacrifice made him an important deity later as the importance of sacrifices increased. In post-Vedic literature, the wheel in his hand is compared to the Sun. The Eagle, (Garuḍa), the king of the birds, is his vehicle. The

eagle is also called Sūparṇa. In the Rig Veda, Sūparṇa is the attribute of the sun. This indicates the solar origin of Vishṇu.

In the Purāṇic period, Vishṇu became a very influential god, the most important of the Hindu Trinity. According to Dr. Banerjea, this new Vishṇu was the amalgam of three god-concepts (the man-god Vāsudeva-Krishṇa, the Vedic Sun-god Vishṇu and the cosmic god Nārāyaṇa of the Brāhmaṇas).

Vishṇu is conceived in his five main aspects—Para the highest, Vyūha the emanatory, Vibhava the incarnatory, Antaryāmin the inner controller of all beings, and Ārochā the iconic representation of the god.

Vishṇu's supreme task is that of preservation. His incarnations (avatāras) were necessary to carry out the supreme work of preservation of the human race. Whenever the forces of Evil began to rule the world of men, Vishṇu, the Great Preserver, left the Heavens, descended to the world of men and rescued men from Evil. Sometimes he assumed forms for the attainment of particular objectives. A study of Vishṇu's incarnations would show that some of these forms are cosmic in character, while some are obviously based on historical events. Historical personages came to be endowed with divine attributes and later came to be regarded as incarnations of the deity himself. It is also of interest to note the evolution of these incarnations from the lower to higher forms of life—fish (Matsya), tortoise (Kurma), boar (Varāha), to half-man, half-animal (Narasimha), to the Dwarf

incarnation (Vāmana), and to great heroes, endowed with many superhuman qualities.

The doctrine of Vishnu's incarnations satisfied the great need of a people for a religion of faith in a personal God, 'for a God sympathising with humanity and meeting it in its need. It expresses the desire for a divine deliverer, amid the evils and miseries of life.'

## ICONOGRAPHY (Pls. 5-10)

Vishnu should be seated on Garuda (Eagle). He has one face and four or more arms. He carries in his right hands an arrow, a rosary, a club; and in his left hands a hide, a cloth and rainbow.

He also holds a chakra (wheel) and gadā (mace).

The chakra represents rotation of the world, as also the Wheel of Dharma, the Wheel of Time and the Wheel of the Planets.

Garuda is the mind pervading the bodies of all the creatures. There is nothing quicker and stronger than the mind.

Vishnu's eight hands symbolise the four quarters and the intermediate directions.

Śaṅkha (conch) represents the sky, chakra the air, gadā the light and padma (lotus) the waters.

## VISHNU'S INCARNATIONS

Vishnu's incarnations are normally ten, but sometimes are said to be upto twenty-two or more (see Tables). Different texts mention different names. The ten most generally accepted are as follows: Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varāha (boar), Narasimha (Man-lion), Vāmana (dwarf), Parāśurāma, Daśaratharāma, Kṛṣṇa, the Buddha, and Kalki which is yet to come.

### I. THE FISH INCARNATION (MATSYA AVATARA)

The sacred books of the Hindus frequently refer to the story of the Great Flood that devastated the world. The account greatly resembles the flood described in the Book of Genesis. Vishnu, the Preserver, appeared in the form of a great fish and rescued Manu, the progenitor of the new human race. Like Noah, Manu was chosen on account of his great piety in an age of universal depravity.

Various accounts of the flood are given. The Purāṇic accounts tell us that besides Manu, the

Seven Divine Rishis (the Mānas-putrās or mind-born sons of Brahmā) along with their wives were also saved and these repopulated the world afterwards.

*In plastic representations of the incarnation, Vishnu appears as half-fish and half-man, the lower half being fish. In his four hands he carries the conch and wheel and two hands are in the boon-giving and protection mudrās. He wears a kirita crown and the other usual ornaments.*

### II. THE TORTOISE INCARNATION (THE KURMA AVATARA)

The gods of the Hindus were constantly engaged in wars with the demons. The demons practised severe austerities, obtained all kinds of boons from the gods, and then fought with them. On one such occasion when the demons were triumphant, the gods implored Vishnu to help them regain their lost power. Vishnu advised the gods to make peace with the demons and unite with them in churning the ocean to produce the nectar (Amritā) that would make them immortal. Thereupon, the gods made peace with the demons (Asurās), collected all kinds of plants and herbs and threw these into the ocean. Then they lifted the great Mandāra mountain and used it like a churning rod, using the serpent Vasuki as the rope. But the earth began to sink under its weight. So Vishnu assumed the form of a giant tortoise and got underneath the Mandāra mountain. His huge back served as base on which the mountain could pivot. Out of the churning of the ocean came the nectar that brought immortality and power to the Gods.

*In representations of this incarnation, Vishnu is shown as half-tortoise and half-man, the lower half being tortoise. He carries in two hands the conch and the wheel, while the other two hands are in the boon-giving and protection attitudes.*

### III. THE BOAR INCARNATION (THE VARAHA AVATARA)

Vishnu took the form of a boar to save the Earth-goddess Prithvī from the clutches of the demon Hiranyāksha. During the Great Flood, the earth was submerged under the water. This posed an imminent threat to all life on earth. At such a crucial moment, Vishnu took the form of a huge boar and diving into the deep water, slew



the demon after a long struggle and rescued the earth.

In plastic representations the Earth-goddess is shown in human form being elevated on the tusks of a man-boar. This symbolises the 'extrication of the world from the deluge of sin by the power of the Supreme Being.'

The epic *Rāmāyaṇa* ascribes the lifting of the earth to Brahmā. The Vishṇu, the Linga and the *Garuḍa-Purāṇas* also ascribe the deed to Brahmā, but they identify Brahmā with Vishṇu. The boar incarnation is differently described in different texts. The sculptural representation also differs in these texts. There are three types described in the various texts: (1) Bhuvarāha, Adivarāha or Nṛivarāha; (2) Yajñavarāha; and (3) Pralayavarāha.

#### (1) Bhuvarāha (Pls. 11-14)

##### *Appearance*

He has the face of a boar with the body of man. The boar face should be tilted up so as to touch the bosom of the Earth-goddess.

##### *Position of legs*

The right leg should be bent and rest upon the jewelled hood of the serpent Adīśeṣha, who must be accompanied by his wife.

##### *Hands*

He is four-handed. Two hands hold conch and wheel. One left hand supports the Goddess Earth, who is seated on the Lord's right leg which is bent. One right hand is placed round the waist of the goddess.

##### *Goddess Earth*

She should be decked with flowers and ornaments. She should be seated on the right leg of the Lord with both legs pendant. Her uplifted face should be turned towards the Lord and show great joy at her deliverance. The top of her head should reach the chest of the Lord. She should be conceived in the Pañcha-tāla measure.

##### *Variations*

Bhuvarāha may be represented in other ways. He may hold a mace and a lotus in his two hands, and support Goddess Prithvī on his tusk. In this variation, one of his feet should rest upon the serpent Adīśeṣha and the other on a tortoise. One

of his right hands should rest on his hip. Alternately, Goddess Earth may sit on the left elbow of the Lord, holding a blue lotus in her hand.

#### (2) Yajñavarāha

##### *Appearance*

Vishṇu as Varāha should sit on a *siṃhāsana*, with the right foot pendant. He should be decked in ornaments.

##### *Hands*

Four. Two should carry conch and wheel.

##### *Lakshmi*

On his right is his consort Lakshmi. She sits with her right leg pendant, carrying a lotus in her left hand with the right resting on the lotus.

##### *Goddess Earth*

Bhūdevī is shown on his left, seated with her left leg pendant. She carries a blue lotus in her right hand, with the right resting on the seat. Her face is turned towards the Lord and expresses surprise.

#### (3) Pralayavarāha

##### *Appearance*

Here Vishṇu as Varāha sits on a *siṃhāsana*, with the right leg pendant.

##### *Hands*

Four. Two hold conch and wheel. Front right is in the protection attitude, while the front left rests on the thigh.

##### *Goddess Earth*

She sits on the same seat as Varāha, with the right leg pendant. She carries a blue lotus in her left hand, while her right rests on the seat.

#### IV THE MAN-LION INCARNATION (THE NARASIMHA AVATARA) (PLS. 15-20)

Vishṇu took the form of half-man and half-lion to destroy the demon Hiranyakaśipu, who was harassing the gods. Hiranyāksha and Hiranyakaśipu were the two sons of Kaśyapa and Diti. The Purāṇic accounts tell us that these two were Jaya and Vijaya, the two door-keepers of Vishṇu, who having incurred his displeasure were cursed

to be born as demons, and to become the enemies of Vishnu is several births. Hiranyakaśipu had obtained several boons from Brahmā, making him so invulnerable that he could be killed neither by man nor beast, neither in the day nor by night, neither inside a house nor outside, and no weapon could do him injury. Having granted all these boons, Brahmā was helpless when the demon turned against the gods. Vishnu took the man-lion form, tore Hiranyakaśipu with his claws, at twilight time, sitting on the door-sill of the demon's palace.

Narasimha images are of three types: (1) *Girija-Narasimha*, (2) *Sthauna-Narasimha*, and (3) *Yānaka-Narasimha*.

### (1) Girija-Narasimha

#### General Posture

Narasimha sits on a lotus seat, with heels kept close to the bottom, and the back slightly curved. His legs are held in position by a belt (*Yogapattā*).

#### Hands

Kevala-Narasimha (his other name) has two or four arms. When he has four arms, the upper right hand holds a wheel, and the upper left a conch. The remaining two hands are stretched forward to rest on the knees.

### (2) Sthauna-Narasimha

#### General posture

Narasimha sits on a lion-seat, with the right leg pendant. His neck is covered by a thick mane. He has sharp curved teeth.

#### Hands

Four. In two back hands, he holds a conch and a wheel. His front right hand is in the protection attitude, while the front left is in the boon-giving attitude.

OR

#### General Posture

Hiranyakaśipu should be stretched on the left thigh of Narasimha, who must be in the tribhaṅga (body bent at three places) posture. With two hands he rips open the belly of the demon.

#### Hands

He should have twelve or sixteen hands. With two hands, he opens the belly of the demon, two lift out the entrails of the demon upto the ears. One right hand holds the legs of the demon, one holds a sword, while another is held in the attitude of protection. One left hand holds the crown of the demon, and is lifted to administer a blow to him.

If a Narasimha image has eight hands, two open up the belly of the demon, two draw out the entrails of the demon and the remaining four carry the conch, the mace, the wheel and the lotus.

The demon Hiranyakaśipu is armed with a sword and a shield.

#### Attendant Gods

Śrīdevī, Bhūdevī, Nārada with his lute, and Pralhāda, the son of the demon, who was a worshipper of Vishnu, are shown on either side of the God. The eight guardians of the quarters are also seen in attendance.

### (3) Yānaka-Narasimha

#### Vehicle

Eagle or Serpent Adīśeṣha.

#### Hands

Four. Two carry conch and wheel.

Nothing is said in the texts about the other two hands.

### V. THE DWARF INCARNATION (THE VĀMANA AYATARA). TRIVIKRAMA (Pls. 21-24)

The origin of Vishnu's Vāmana incarnation can be traced to the special characteristic of Vishnu, his ability to conquer Earth, Heaven, etc., by his immense strides. Bali, the grandson of Pralhāda, by his long austerities won many favours from the gods. By virtue of his great struggle, he acquired dominion over the three worlds—heaven, earth and the lower or nether regions. Indra lost his heavenly kingdom, whereupon his mother Aditi implored Vishnu to help her son and the gods to win back their kingdom. The Lord was hence born to Aditi as her son. As a young Brāhmaṇa boy, he approached King Bali, who was engaged in offering a sacrifice to Vishnu, as



*Yajña-Purusha.* Bali's preceptor Śukrāchārya asked him not to make any promises to the young Brāhmaṇa, since he was none other than Viṣṇu himself. The generous Bali, however, considered Viṣṇu's presence as a great honour. He asked the young Brāhmaṇa boy to ask for anything, whereupon the boy asked for just three paces of space on which to sit and meditate. Upon the request being granted Vāmana, the Dwarf, became Trivikrama (the gigantic form). With one step he strode over the heavens, and with the second the earth. King Bali asked him to place the third step on his royal head as there was no other spot left. Pleased with Bali, Vāmana allowed him to proceed to the nether world with his demon hosts and rule there, and Indra got back his heavenly kingdom.

#### SCULPTURAL REPRESENTATIONS

##### Vāmana

##### Height

Vāmana should be executed in the Pañcha-tāla measure. His height should be 56 angulas (Pts. 21-24).

##### Hands

Two. In one he carries a vase and in the other an umbrella. He wears a ring of *Kūśa* grass on the third finger. He also carries a book.

##### General

Vāmana has his tuft tied into a knot. He wears ear-ornaments and a deer-skin. He wears a loin-cloth to cover his body.

##### Trivikrama

##### Height

He should be gigantic. His height should be 124 angulas.

##### Posture of legs

His right leg is firmly planted on the earth. The left is lifted to take strides. It should be raised upto the level of the right knee, the navel or the forehead.

##### Hands

Four or eight. If he has four hands, one right hand holds a conch while the other is held with

the palm upwards. One left hand carries a wheel. The other left hand is stretched out and is parallel to the uplifted leg. Alternately, this hand may exhibit protection or boon-giving attitude.

If he is eight-handed: five of them carry conch, wheel, mace, bow and plough.

##### Attendants

Indra is shown holding an umbrella over Trivikrama's head. Varuṇa and Vāyu hold fly-whisks on either side. Over them are the Sun and Moon. Close to them are Sanyasa, Sanaka and Sanatkumāra. Brahmā holds the uplifted foot of Trivikrama, and washes it with water flowing down from a vase. Śiva sits a little above the navel of Trivikrama with folded hands. The rākshasa Namuchi stands near the foot of Trivikrama with folded hands. On the left, Viṣṇu's vehicle Garuda is shown beating Śukrāchārya for his advice to Bali. On the right, Vāmana stands holding his umbrella, waiting to receive Bali's gift. Bali stands carrying a golden vessel in his hands, with his wife behind him. Above Trivikrama is Jambavan, sounding the drum of victory.

#### VI. RAMA WITH THE BATTLE-AXE (PARAŚURĀMA AVATARA)

Viṣṇu was born as Paraśurāma for the sole purpose of exterminating the Kshatriya caste. Early India witnessed a long and intense power struggle between the priest class (the Brāhmaṇas) and the soldier class (the Kshatriyas) for supremacy. The kings tried to assert their authority over the priest class. In this struggle between the two classes, the priest class ultimately succeeded in establishing the pre-eminence of their caste. The story of Paraśurāma is the story of this ultimate triumph of the priestly caste over the soldier caste of India.

The *Viṣṇu-Purāṇa* amongst others narrates in great detail the Paraśurāma story. Paraśurāma was the son of Reṇukā and Jamadagni. Once, a king named Kartavirya, while on a hunt, visited the hermitage of Jamadagni. Jamadagni entertained the royal company lavishly by means of his cow Sabalā, who could fulfil any wish. The king, impressed by the cow's performance, requested the sage to give him the cow. On being refused, Jamadagni was slain by the son of Kartavirya. Paraśurāma, on his return, learnt of

this and enraged at this outrage, pursued Kartavirya and killed him in battle. Paraśurāma vowed vengeance against the whole Kshatriya race and twenty-one times cleared the world of every male member of the soldier caste. To expiate for all this killing, he performed expiatory rites, handed over the world to Brāhmanas, and retired to the mountains.

#### Paraśurāma in Sculpture

##### General

Paraśurāma should be 120 angulas in height. He should wear a jaṭā-crown and a sacred thread; he should also wear a deer-skin.

##### Hands

Two or four. If he has two hands, the right should hold a Parāśu (battle-axe) and the left should exhibit the sūchī mudrā (pointing to something). If he has four hands, he should carry in them the battle-axe, sword, bow and arrow.

#### VII. INCARNATION AS KING RAMA (RAMACHANDRA AVATARA) (Pl. 25)

This is one of the most popular incarnations of Vishnu. Rāma, the son of Daśaratha, the king of Ayodhyā, is the hero of the great Indian epic, *Rāmāyana*, which tells the story of the Aryan migration to the south. Rāma is the ideal king, son and brother. The *Rāmāyana* tells the story of this peerless prince and his beautiful and virtuous wife Sītā.

#### Sculptural Representations

##### General

Śrī-Rāma stands in the tribhāṅga pose (bent at three places) (Pl. 25).

##### Hands

Two. The right holds an arrow and the left a bow.

##### Crown

He wears a kirita-crown.

##### Companions

(1) *Sītā*—His wife Sītā stands erect on his right side. She should reach the shoulder of Rāma

in height. She holds a blue lotus in her left hand while the right hangs loosely on the right. She wears a karanda-crown (Pls. 26, 27).

(2) *Lakshmana*—He stands on the left of his elder brother Rāma. He reaches the ears of his brother in height. He is richly ornamented and holds the bow and the arrow in his two hands.

(3) *Hanumāna*—The monkey-god stands a little in front of Rāma's right and reaches up to the chest, navel or hip of Rāma in height. He has two hands. The right hand is placed upon the mouth while the left is allowed to hang loosely to reach the knees (Pl. 28).

(4) Rāma's other two brothers, Bharata and Shatrughna, also keep him company. Both have two hands which hold bows and arrows.

#### VIII. INCARNATION AS KRISHNA (KRISHNA AVATARA) (Pl. 29)

This is another extremely popular incarnation of Vishnu. His worship is so popular that his devotees regard him not as a mere incarnation of Vishnu but as the Supreme Lord himself. Born to Vāsudeva and Devakī, he was carried to the couch of Yaśodā by his father to escape the clutches of his brother-in-law king Kāṁsa, for it had been predicted that the eighth-born child of Devakī would be the cause of the death of Kāṁsa. The *Harivamśa*, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavata*, the *Vishnu-Purāṇa*, etc., narrate the exploits of Krishna. To the average Hindu, Krishna is the great symbol of many virtues. He is the supreme statesman, warrior and hero, a great philosopher and teacher. He is the great expounder of the "Song Celestial," the *Bhāgavat Geetā*.

#### Images of Krishna

##### General

Krishna is to be clothed in red garments and richly ornamented. He wears a kirita-crown.

##### Hands

Two. The right hand holds a curved stick, while the left is lifted and bent at the elbow. He may carry a conch in this hand.

##### Companions

Rukminī on right of Krishna. She has a decorative hair-dress adorned with flowers. She carries a lotus flower in the left hand, while the left hangs



loosely to the side. She is one wife of Kṛishṇa.

Satyabhāmā, the other wife of Kṛishṇa, appears on his left. She wears a decorative hair-dress. She holds a flower in her right hand, while her left hangs loosely below (Pl. 30).

The wives of Kṛishṇa may wear the karaṇḍa-crown.

#### IX. VISHNU'S INCARNATION AS BUDDHA (THE BUDDHA AVATARA)

The incarnation of Vishṇu as Gautam Buddha does not flatter the Buddhists. This incarnation is symbolic of the deep hatred that the Hindus felt for the Buddhists and their profound contempt for Buddhist teachings. The *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* says that 'as Buddha, Vishṇu deludes the heretics (i.e., the Buddhists).' In short, the incarnate Deity preaches damnable error. The *Purāṇa* refers to Buddha as the son of Ignorance (Ajñāna), born to deceive the enemies of the gods. As Buddha, Vishṇu advised the Asuras to abandon the Vedas, whereupon they lost all their power, and enabled the Suras (Gods) to establish their supremacy. The Buddhists are referred to as naked people, since they do not wear the covering of the Vedas.

#### Buddha in Representations

##### General

Short curly hair. Feet and palms should have marks of the lotus. He should be calm and graceful in appearance.

He should be seated on a lotus seat. The lobes of his ears must be pendant. He should wear a yellow robe.

##### Hands

In boon-giving and protection attitudes.

#### X. THE KALKI INCARNATION (THE KALKI AVATARA)

Vishṇu is yet to accomplish this incarnation. Vishṇu will descend upon the earth at the end of the present age, which is the Kali-yuga or the Age of Darkness. As the Jews await the coming of a Messiah, the Hindus await the arrival of Kalki, who will destroy all evil, dispel darkness, and once again usher in the Golden Age (the Kṛita-yuga).

The *Agni-Purāṇa* tells us that thoughtless men will begin to do wrong things like inter-caste marriages, not following the Vedas, not per-

forming Vedic sacrifices, etc. Foreign barbarians will establish their supremacy. Then Vishṇu will appear as Kalki, riding a white horse, with drawn sword, blazing like a comet. He will destroy the barbarians, re-establish the four orders and the castes. He will usher in a new era of purity, rightness and peace and then return to heaven.

#### Sculptural Representation

##### General

Face of a horse and body of a man.  
Or like an ordinary Vishṇu image.

##### Hands

He holds a conch, wheel, sword and a shield (khetaka). When he rides a horse, he carries a bow and an arrow. Kalki may also carry a sword, bow, wheel and conch.

### OTHER COMMON ICONO- GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS OF VISHṆU

ADIMURTI—Seated in sukhāsana on the coils of Serpent Sesha, its head forming a canopy over the god. With four hands holding the usual emblems.

DATTATREYA—Representation of Vishṇu as the Trinity. Represented either as three separate gods standing or sitting side by side, holding their emblems and riding their vehicles; or shown as Vishṇu in sitting pose but wearing Śiva's crown and ornaments; or shown with three heads, one of each of the three gods of the Hindu Trinity and accompanied by four dogs—the four Vedas.

DHANVANTARIN—Deity of Hindu medicine. Shown as a handsome figure holding a pot of ambrosia and seated in front of Vishṇu's special emblems.

HAYAGRIVA—Vishṇu with the head of a horse on a human body, considered the god of learning. This manifestation must be distinguished from that of Kalki in which the latter has only two hands. Hayagriva has four hands.

LAKSHMI-NARAYANA—A composite representation of Vishṇu sitting with the right leg hanging down and the left folded up on which is supported his consort Lakshmi. She holds a lotus in the left hand and embraces Vishṇu with



the right. The latter has four hands, two holding the discus and the conch-shell, the lower right in the boon bestowing pose, and the lower left round the goddess.

**MANMATHA**—A representation of Vishnu as the god of love, shown holding a bow and five flower-arrows. Accompanied by Priti and Rati.

**MOHINI**—The beautiful female form assumed by Vishnu to deprive the Asuras of their legitimate share of the ambrosia obtained by the churning of the ocean.

**VAIKUNTHA**—Vishnu with eight arms and four heads, riding on his vehicle Eagle. The heads are of a man, a woman, Narasiṃha (lion), and Varāha (boar). Thus this form is a combination of two of his incarnations.

**VARADARAJA**—Vishnu riding on his vehicle Garuda, with eight hands carrying emblems. Vishnu as the bestower of boons and benefactor.

**VENKATESA**—Also called Balaji in the North. One half is Vishnu, the other half Śiva, each half with its own special emblems and ornaments. This form is worshipped by followers of both the gods.

## MODES OR EXPRESSIONS OF MURTIS

Images of Vishnu are in four forms: *Yoga*—Meditation. Worshipped by saints and ascetics; *Bhoga*—images expressing enjoyment of worldly pleasures and hence worshipped by the masses; *Vīra*—expressive of valour and hence the favourite of kings and warriors; *Abhicharika*—the terrific aspects, worshipped by those with evil intent.

*Sthānaka*—standing images.

*Āsana*—seated images.

*Śayana*—sleeping images.

## GARUḌA AND ĀYUDHA-PURUSHAS

Garuda (Eagle) is the Vehicle of Vishnu, the second of the Hindu Triad. He has a very respectable ancestry, being the son of the sage Kaśyapa and his wife Vinatā. His younger brother Aruna is the Sun-god Surya's charioteer. When Garuda learnt that his mother Vinatā was held in bondage by his step-mother Kadrū, he decided to free her. But his step-brothers, the sons of Kadrū, who were serpents, demanded nectar as the price for

her freedom. He proceeded to Indra's kingdom, killed the guards who were protecting the pot of nectar, and returned to earth. On his way, he met Vishnu, and agreed to become his vehicle. Garuda came to his step-brothers and placed the vessel of nectar on a heap of Kuśa grass. Delighted, they set Garuda's mother Vinatā free. While they had gone away to perform religious rites which had to be performed before drinking the ambrosia, Indra descended to earth and carried away the vessel of nectar. Kadrū's sons were disappointed to find the vessel carried away and satisfied themselves by licking the Kuśa grass on which the pot of nectar had been placed. The placing of the pot of nectar on the Kuśa grass made it sacred to the Hindus.

### Sculptural Representation

In sculptural representations, Garuda may have four hands. In one he holds an umbrella and in the other a pot of nectar. The remaining two hands are in an attitude of adoration. When he carries Vishnu on his back, the hands which carry the umbrella and the vessel of nectar support Vishnu's feet.

According to the text *Śilparatna*, Garuda may also have two hands, one of which is held in the protection-giving attitude. He may also have eight hands, in six of which he carries the pot of nectar, mace, conch, wheel, sword and snake.

Garuda also appears in anthropomorphic form. This seems to be a more popular form of depicting him in sculpture. He has a pointed nose, and two hands which are held in the attitude of adoration. This is in accordance with his form as described in the *Śrī-tatva-nidhi*.

### Āyudha-Purushas

Āyudha-purushas are anthropomorphic personifications of the weapons (Āyudhas) used by Śiva or Vishnu. Some of these take male forms, others female forms, while still others assume the third gender form, depending upon their gender in the Sanskrit language.

*Male Āyudha-purushas*: Ankuśa, Pāśa, Śūla, Vajra, Khadga, Danda.

*Female Āyudhas*: Śakti, Gadā.

*Neuter Āyudhas*: Chakra, Padma.

In sculptural representations, they have one face and two hands, which are held in an attitude of adoration. They wear a karanda-mukuta. The weapon they represent is shown either in the crown or in their folded hands.

## ŚIVA

ŚIVA IS one of the most important and popular gods of India. The *Amarakosha* gives a list of his forty-eight names. Śiva is identified with the Vedic Rudra, who is clothed in a skin and inhabits the mountains. His favourite weapons are the bow and arrow. He also uses a Thunderbolt occasionally. He is the father of the Maruts. He is also called Tryambak, son of Three Mothers. The Three Mothers of Tryambak are Earth, Atmosphere and Heaven. Śiva's wife is Ambikā. Rudra is also identified with Agni. The *Vājasaneyi Samhitā* says that Agni, Asani, Paśupati, Bhava, Sarva, Isāna, Mahādeva, Ugradeva, are all forms of the same god.

The Vedic Rudra appears to be a terrible god who has to be constantly pacified. Many Vedic hymns are addressed to him wherein he is asked not to 'destroy our cattle' or 'our children, relatives, people,' etc. He is also asked to protect people from disease, thieves, etc. When worshipped, Rudra becomes a beneficent deity. He is the supreme Medicine Man, and the God of Medicine. He protects human beings and animals from disease. Since he takes care of the animals he is called Paśupati (Lord of Animals). Worship is offered to him constantly and he is asked to be beneficent always, to become 'Śiva' (Auspicious).

Rudra took birth to punish Prajāpati who committed the great sin of incest with his own daughter. He pursued his own daughter Sarasvatī who was fleeing in the form of a deer. To pursue her he himself became a fleet-footed animal.

Till the period of the *Smritis* and the *Dharma-sūtras* (6th century B.C.) Rudra was a terrible god. Offerings to Rudra were made outside the town limits. Rudra being a non-Aryan god, he continued to be described as a deity more to be feared than to be respected and revered. This was in a way symbolic of the early conflicts between the Aryan and Dravidian cultures. Gradually, as a synthesis was effected, Rudra the Inauspicious became Śiva, the Auspicious. He was even married to the daughter of the Aryan deity Dakṣa Prajāpati. In spite of this, however, the character of the God changed only slightly. He was still the inhabitant of cemeteries, who applied ashes to his naked body covered only by a deer-skin and ornamented with a garland of skulls, wandered about in the jungles and over mountains, carrying an alms bowl made of a skull top, accompanied by dogs. His father-in-law Prajāpati was repelled by his looks and once refused to invite him to a sacrifice. Incensed, Śiva produced a son who destroyed Dakṣa's sacrifice. In spite of this sacrilege Śiva ultimately became Aryanised and became as important as Viṣṇu. The Aryans, while assimilating Śiva into Aryanism, gave him the function of Destruction.

Śiva is today one of the most popular gods to whom a very large number of temples are dedicated. He has a very large following. His followers are today divided into a number of sects, viz., Śaiva, Pāśupata, Kāpālika, Kālamukha, Lakulīṣa, Vīraśaiva, etc.

The *Śiva-Purāṇa* regards Śiva as performing



the triple functions of creation, protection and destruction.

The early Aryans worshipped nature—Ushas the Dawn, Mitra, the friendly Sun-god, Agni, the Fire-god, Varuna, the god of Air, Indra, etc. Side by side there were some natural elements which were not so friendly. The storms which uproot trees and demolish houses, lightening, and epidemics which kill cattle and men. These were natural elements which were feared and sought to be appeased. These became Rudra who went howling with the stormy winds (Maruts), his sons. But an angry god can always be appeased by prayer.

The *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* tells the story of Rudra's birth. He is the son of Prajāpati and Ushas. When he was born he began to cry because he had no name. He was called Rudra because he wept ('rud,' to weep).

The Vedic Rudra was sometimes identified with Agni. Both could destroy prosperity and suffering and were feared. 'Slay not our men in thine anger,' 'Far from us be thy cow-slaying and man-slaying weapon.' But Rudra is also capable of being good and so his help is sought. 'We invoke to our succour the impetuous Rudra, the fulfiller of sacrifice, the swift, the wise.' 'We present thou prayer Rudra... that there be prosperity to our two-footed and four-footed creatures, that everything in this village be well-fed and free from disease.' Rudra confers favours upon his devotees and as physician cures people of their diseases.

In the *Shatarudriya* text, he is called the dweller of the mountain (Girish). He roams the forests and is lord of the medicinal herb. He is the divine physician. As lord of the open fields he is the lord of the cattle—Pāśupati. His sons, the Rudras, traverse all quarters. So he is the lord of quarters.

In his kindly form he is Shambhū. He is Śiva, the Auspicious.

Rudra means one who drives away suffering and sin. Śiva also means the same thing. This is why Rudra of the Vedic period became Śiva of the later period.

The *Atharva Veda* makes Rudra the ruler of all two-footed and four-footed beings. He is a swift archer and nobody can avoid him. He is thousand-eyed, i.e., All-seeing. He is everywhere, on the earth, the atmosphere, the sky, i.e., he is Omnipresent. He also protects the Vṛatyās, those who do not perform Vedic sacrifices.

Since he protects the non-Aryan Vṛatyās, the *Aitareya* and *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇas* do not like him. They regard him as a frightful and evil god who is not to be trusted with cattle or anything else. Worship is to be offered to him merely to keep him from doing mischief. The *Shatarudriya* offering is made to him only to pacify him. He is the dreaded hundred-headed Rudra.

The *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa* says he is the embodiment of all the dread-forms, created conjointly by all the gods to punish Prajāpati (Brahmā) who was trying to consort with his own daughter.

#### UPANISHADIC CHANGE

This period saw a transformation in the attitude towards Rudra. The *Brāhmaṇas* were primarily concerned with rituals. They failed to comprehend the true idea of the Universal Spirit.

The Upanishads developed the doctrine of Ātman and Brahman. The soul was regarded as an immortal category, which emanates from the Brahman and finally merges with it. 'One who attains Brahman need not fear the gods.'

With the development of devotional worship, Śiva, now considered Auspicious, came to be regarded by some as the one and only lord, Iśvara. There is only one Rudra, 'who is the inmost soul of all men, who creates all beings and protects them.' Rudra is the highest Brahman and encompasses the whole universe. He uses Māyā (Prakṛiti) and becomes Maheśvara. There is not another like him. He is knowable by faith and love. He promotes virtue and dispels sin. He created Brahman, and sent forth the Vedas.

In the Purāṇic period Rudra becomes Śiva, a Supreme Deity. He assumes the forms of the gods Viṣṇu and Brahman. He is the soul of the universe. He carries a discus, a trident, a club, an axe, and wears a girdle and a yajñopavita (the sacred thread of the Hindus) made of serpents; he laughs, sings and dances in ecstasy. As dancer, he is Natarāja.

#### SIVA AND PHALDIC WORSHIP

Śiva is also worshipped in phallic form. This has been the subject of much controversy.

According to Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar, the Aryans may have borrowed 'phallic' worship from some aboriginal tribes. The *Rig Veda* makes reference to people whose god was the phallus (Shishna-Devatā). The *Shvetashvatara Upanishad* speaks of god Iśāna as presiding over every Yoni.



(the female generative organ). This may merely be an allusion to god presiding over every creative cause.

According to Dr. Aiyar, Liṅga does not mean the phallus. Śiva is the formless or the 'all-formed.' Being possessed of all forms, there is nothing in the world not pervaded by him. Every form worshipped, therefore, has the stamp or mark of Śiva. It was to represent the idea of the 'formless' and the 'all-formed' that the Śiva-liṅga, which looks like a phallus, was chosen. It has a thousand heads, a thousand eyes, a thousand feet. It has a hand and foot on every side, on every side an eye and an ear on every side. The hemispherical top of the Śiva-liṅga consists of thousands of heads, each of the size of a point. The sides of the cylindrical feet are his eyes, hands and faces. The circular bottom represents his feet. Though the image has hundreds of hands, feet, etc., it has really no hands, heads or feet.

The Śiva-liṅga is thus the closest possible approximation to the cosmic Puruṣa.

If the Liṅga is identified with the human phallus, it will mean that god looks like man, which is absurd. Gods have different shapes as the shape of man is different from that of a worm.

It is possible that originally Liṅga worship may have had the connotation suggested by Dr. Aiyar. Later on, when the Aryans came into contact with tribal communities who worshipped the phallus as the symbol of creative power, Liṅga worship may have gained a new meaning.

Phallic worship existed in all ancient civilizations. Sir John Marshall has discovered numerous Liṅgas and Yonis in the Mohenjodaro civilization. Dr. Stein has found them in Baluchistan.

Existence was conceived as being the result of the union of the male and female principles. The creative and generative power of the phallus was sought for the sake of offsprings and for making the soil yield good crops. The festival of Saturnalia (agricultural festival) gives proof of this. The dormant powers of nature have to be aroused by fertility rites. The phallus, symbolic of generative power, was considered the cause of creation, animate and inanimate. So when Śiva came to be regarded as the cause of causes, the Liṅga became his mark.

#### VARIOUS SYMBOLS OF SIVA

The symbolic meaning of some of the chief symbols of Śiva are as follows:

*Staff*—represents death.

*Citron*—is seed of the world.

*Trident*—means grammar.

*Shield*—represents Dharma.

*Trisūla*—the three sūlas represent Sattva, Rajas and Tamas guṇas.

*Matted hair*—the variegated Brahman, the Absolute.

*Digit of the moon*—symbolises his Divinity.

*Serpent Vasuki Yajñopavita*—his anger which subdues evil.

*Tiger skin*—Trishṇā (Desire).

*Bull*—symbolizes Dharma.

## ANUGRAHA-MURTIS

### SIVA IN HIS BOON-GIVING FORMS

(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

On occasions Śiva can be merciful and grant boons to his devotees when pleased. The sculptural compositions recording such acts of grace are known as Anugraha-mūrtis.

#### 1. *Chandesa-anugraha-mūrti*

'Anugraha' means grace. This is the story of the attainment of grace by a Brahman boy named Vicharasarman. He got the job of tending cows from a cowherd boy who was very harsh with the cows. Under his loving care, the cows began to give more milk than their udders could hold. This milk began to get spilt. The Brahman boy began to collect this extra milk in vessels and with this milk he began to bathe Liṅgas made of sand and offer worship to Śiva. This matter was reported to Vicharasarman's father, Yajñadatta. The latter, when he found his son pouring milk over a mound of sand, kicked the mound in great anger. His son, aroused from his deep reverie, saw the sacrilege and cut off his father's leg which had kicked the sacred object of worship.

Śiva was greatly pleased and appeared before his young devotee with his consort Pārvatī, and granted him grace. He made Vicharasarman the head of his gaṇas (dwarf attendants) and the steward of his household and called him Chandesa.

#### 2. *Vishnuvanugraha-mūrti or Chakradāna-mūrti*

The *Śiva-Purāṇa* tells us how Śiva, pleased with the worship of Vishṇu, granted him his own Wheel or Discus to be used as a weapon. Once, when Vishṇu was fighting with the Asuras (the enemies of the gods), he found that he could not conquer



them. He, therefore, offered worship to Śiva and asked for Śiva's Wheel. Vishṇu daily offered one thousand lotus flowers to Śiva. One day he found that he was short of one flower. He promptly plucked one of his eyes which were comparable to the lotus (Kamala-nayana) and offered it to Śiva. Greatly pleased, Śiva presented to Vishṇu his own Wheel.

### 3. *Nandisanugraha-mūrti*

This is the story of how Nandikeśvara or Adhikaranandi attained grace at the hands of Śiva.

According to one account, the sage Śālankāyana, who for a long time was without a son, practised severe austerities to get one. Vishṇu, pleased with his devotion, blessed him with a son of great virtue, who sprang up from the right side of Vishṇu and resembled Śiva. He was given the name Nandikeśvara.

In another account, a ṛishi (sage) named Nandi is said to have performed great penance on the Mandāra mountain. Śiva was mightily pleased and appeared before Nandi. The latter requested Śiva to make him the head of his gaṇas. Śiva granted him the boon asked for.

Another story tells us about a blind sage named Silada who began to practise severe austerities with a view to getting a son not born of mortal parents. On god Indra's advice, he began to offer worship to Śiva. The latter was so pleased with his devotion that he himself offered to be born as his son. And so as Silada was performing a sacrifice, a young lad appeared in the room, who looked the duplicate of Śiva, carrying in his hands the trident, chisel, mace and the thunderbolt. Śiva gave the lad the name Nandi.

Nandi began to live in the āshrama (hermitage) of his father and became well-versed in the Vedas. He now looked like any other boy. Learning that he was short-lived, the boy Nandi began to offer worship to Śiva very fervently. Greatly pleased, Śiva appeared before him and embracing him threw his own garland round his neck. The boy now began to look an exact duplicate of Śiva, with three eyes, ten arms, etc. Śiva now exempted Nandi from old age and death and made him head of his gaṇas. Nandi was then married to Suyasu, the daughter of the Maruts.

In many Śaiva temples of South India, Nandi appears as an exact duplicate of Śiva. He can be recognized as Nandi by the position of his two

front hands which are held in the añjali mudrā (folded hands before the chest). In the other two hands he carries a battle-axe and black deer. He is accompanied by his consort Suyasu.

Nandikeśvara is often also represented as a bull-faced human being.

### 4. *Vighneśvaramūrti*

Vighneśvara is the name of Gaṇapati when he had a human head on his shoulders. The *Śiva-Purāṇa* tells us that he was created by Pārvatī during the absence of her consort Śiva to guard her privacy. When Śiva returned, he found his path to the apartments of Pārvatī blocked by a new gate-keeper, who would not allow him entry. Incensed, Śiva sent his gaṇas (attendants) to destroy the troublesome gate-keeper. But Śiva's hosts returned discomfited. Then Vishṇu tried, and after him Kārttikeya, but to no purpose. Finally, Vishṇu through his māyā (Illusion) created confusion, and then Śiva cut off the head of the gate-keeper.

When Pārvatī learnt of this, she was so furious that she created numerous powerful goddesses to fight the gods. Nārada finally interceded on behalf of the gods, and promised to bring Vighneśvara back to life. Śiva asked the gods to proceed to the north and bring to him the head of the first living being they met. They saw an elephant and promptly cut off his head. Śiva fixed this on to the shoulders of Vighneśvara, who now became Gajānana (with the face of an elephant). Śiva made him the chief commander of his gaṇas and called him Gaṇapati (the lord of the gaṇas). He also promised his son a place of importance among the gods. Henceforth, Gaṇapati was to be the first to be worshipped on all occasions, otherwise, the object and prayers of the Yajamāna or sacrificer would not bear fruit.

### 5. *Kirātārjuna-mūrti* (Pls. 31-32)

Arjuna, the third of the Pāṇḍava princes, desired to acquire from Śiva his powerful pāṇu-pāṇāstra and therefore proceeded to the Himalayas to offer him worship. Pleased with his austerities Śiva approached Arjuna as a hunter (kirāta). At this moment an asura assumed the form of a boar to attack Arjuna. As the latter aimed his arrow against the boar, the hunter asked him to refrain from shooting it, since he had seen the boar first. The two could not agree and both shot the boar and killed it. Highly incensed, Arjuna started a



fight with the hunter. To his surprise, he found himself losing to the hunter. Suddenly he recognized in the hunter Śiva himself, whereupon he fell at his feet and worshipped him. Śiva, pleased both with his devotion and skill as an archer, gave him his powerful pāsupatāstra, a terrible war weapon.

#### 6. *Rāvaṇanugraha-mūrti* (Pls. 33-37)

Once Rāvaṇa, king of Lankā (modern Ceylon) was returning after a successful expedition against Kubera, the God of Wealth. In the Himalayas, he located a beautiful garden and proceeded to go there in his *Vimāna* (aeroplane) Pushpaka. Surprisingly, he found that his vehicle could not move any further. Here Rāvaṇa met Nandikeśvara, the powerful leader of the gāṇas of Śiva. Rāvaṇa was informed that he could not go any further as Śiva was sporting on the mountain with his consort Umā, and therefore nobody was allowed to cross over. Rāvaṇa spoke of Śiva with contempt and belittled Nandikeśvara as a mere monkey. Furious, Nandikeśvara cursed Rāvaṇa that he would ultimately be destroyed by monkeys like himself. Highly incensed and inordinately proud of his own strength, Rāvaṇa decided to lift the mountain Kailāsa from its very roots. He did move the mountain which began to shake. As it began to shake, everybody on it became frightened. Umā, in great fear, clung to her lord. Śiva, who knew who was responsible for this mischief, put the toe of his foot gently down, which put the mountain firmly in place. Rāvaṇa became imprisoned under the mountain and could not escape from there. Rāvaṇa, realizing the great power of Śiva and his own helplessness, now began to praise Śiva. He offered worship to Śiva for a thousand years, when Śiva, pleased, presented Rāvaṇa with a sword and allowed him to return to Lankā.

#### LIṄGODBHAVA-MURTI (Pls. 38-40)

In the deep abyss of the primeval waters, Vishṇu lay in deep slumber. From the navel of the God sprang up the stalk of a lotus. Here Brahmā was born. He looked around him and could see only the vast expanse of the water. He was happy in the thought that he was the First-born. He traced the stalk of the lotus on which he was born to the navel of Vishṇu who lay on the serpent Ananta (Eternity) floating on the pri-

mordial waters. Vishṇu asked him who he was. He replied that he was the Creator. Vishṇu disputed his claim and asserted that He and not Brahmā was the Creator. A quarrel ensued between the two. As they were engaged in verbal combat, a huge Liṅga appeared before them which looked like a great cosmic fire. The two stopped quarrelling and set to discover the beginning and end of the great Liṅga. Brahmā assumed the form of a boar and went down into the earth, while Vishṇu as Garuḍa went towards the top. But neither Vishṇu nor Brahmā could discover the top or the bottom of this great cosmic fire. This made them realise that there was someone greater than them. In all humility they now offered worship to the great pillar of fire. Pleased with their worship, Śiva appeared on the body of the Liṅga, with 'a thousand arms and legs, with the sun, moon and the fire as his three eyes.' Śiva then told them as to how both Vishṇu and Brahmā were born out of his left and right loins respectively, and the three of them were in reality one. Having said this, the Great Mahādeva disappeared. From this time, the Liṅga became the object of universal worship.

#### *Liṅgodbhava-mūrti in Sculptural Form*

Śiva should be carved on the front of the Liṅga. His legs below the knees should not be carved. Of his four hands, one should be in the protection attitude, another in the boon-giving attitude. The third should carry a battle-axe while the fourth should carry a black deer (kīśhva-mṛiga).

Brahmā should appear on Śiva's right, near the top, in the form of a swan (hamsa). The size of the swan should be of the size of Śiva's face.

Vishṇu as a boar should be sculptured on the left, at the foot of the Liṅga. The boar should be shown digging into the earth.

Brahmā and Vishṇu should be sculptured in their anthropomorphic forms on the right and left respectively of the Liṅga, facing it, in an attitude of adoration.

#### SAMHARA-MURTIS

SIVA IN HIS TERRIFIC AND DESTRUCTIVE ASPECTS  
(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

##### 1. *Kankāla-mūrti Bhairava* (Pls. 41-42)

Once it so happened that the learned men of



the past, in their desire to know the truth, began to speculate as to who might have created the universe. They approached Brahmā and asked him to enlighten them on this matter. Brahmā replied that he was the creator. Śiva, who had arrived on the scene in the meanwhile, was highly incensed by this assertion of Brahmā. He therefore asked Brahmā to admit the falsity of his statement, which Brahmā refused to do. Śiva tried to demonstrate his greatness in various ways, but Brahmā remained obstinate. Greatly infuriated, Śiva assumed the form of Bhairava and cut off one of the five heads that reviled him. This killed Brahmā only for a short while, since by means of his great virtue he was soon revived. But Śiva had unwittingly committed the sin of Brahmahatyā (the sin of killing a Brāhmaṇa) for which he had to atone. To wash off the sin, Śiva had to wander for twelve years, begging alms and using Brahmā's kapāla (skull) for the purpose. Śiva went to Viṣṇu to seek his advice as to how he could wash off his sin. But when he got to Viṣṇu's residence, the gate-keeper Viśvakṣena, who was a Brāhmaṇa, would not admit him. Śiva assaulted the gate-keeper and killed him, thus committing another Brahmahatyā. Viṣṇu advised Śiva to proceed to Vārāṇasī with the body of Viśvakṣena. On reaching that sacred place, Śiva's sin fell off and he once again became pure and retired to his abode on Kailasa (Mt. Everest).

2. *Gajāsura-saṃhāra-mūrti* (Killing of the Demon Gajāsura—the Elephant Demon) (Pls. 43-45)

The *Kurma-Purāṇa* tells the story of how Śiva came to wear an elephant-skin. Once while the Brāhmaṇas were seated round a Śiva-līṅga, offering prayers, a demon appeared in the form of an elephant and began to harass the Brāhmaṇas. Highly incensed at this, Śiva came out of the Līṅga, killed the elephant and wore his skin as an upper garment. Another text (*Suprabhedagama*) gives a different account of this. The king of the demons, Andhaka, decided to carry away Pārvatī, the wife of Śiva. To assist Andhaka, another demon called Nila took the form of an elephant with a view to killing Śiva. When Nandi, the Bull of Śiva, heard of this plan, he revealed it to Virabhadra, son of Śiva (see page 46). Virabhadra then took the form of a lion and killed Nila in his elephant-form. Then he presented the skin of the elephant to his sire Śiva, who used it as an upper garment. Śiva also set out to destroy

the demon Andhaka himself after this incident. This is also called *Gajāsura-vadha-mūrti*.

3. *Tripurāntaka-mūrti* (the Destruction of the Three Castles) (Pls. 46-49)

The *Mahābhārata*, the great Indian epic, tells the story of the destruction of the three castles built by the powerful sons of the demon Andhaka-sura—Vidyumālī, Tarakakeha and Kamalāksha. These three sons performed very severe penances and pleased Brahmā so much that he offered to grant them any boon they wished. They wanted three castles built of metal, one of gold in heaven, another of silver in the air, and a third of iron on earth, each one of them to be impenetrable, and which could be joined to become one huge castle connecting earth, air and heaven after a thousand years. Without much thought, Brahmā granted this boon to the three brothers. They also demanded that this one huge castle after it was joined should be destructible only by a single arrow.

The three brothers now began to harass the gods from these indestructible castles. Indra's thunderbolt was of no avail against these demons. In utter despair, the gods approached Brahmā, who was really responsible for this since he had granted the original boon to the demons. Brahmā told the gods that the demons could be destroyed only with a single arrow, and that none excepting Śiva was strong enough to wield such a weapon. The gods now offered prayers to Śiva. The latter, pleased with their worship, agreed to undertake the work of destroying the demons. Śiva asked the gods to surrender half of their powers to him, which they did. Now Śiva became stronger than all the other gods, and thus became 'Mahādeva,' the 'Great God.' He made Viṣṇu his arrow, Agni its barb, and Yama its feather; he made the Vedas his bow and Sāvitrī his bow-string. Brahmā had to accept the position of his charioteer. Using his great strength, he then discharged the arrow and destroyed the three castles of the demons.

4. *Sarabhesa-mūrti* (Śiva as Sarabha, an Imaginary Animal Destroying the Narasimha form of Viṣṇu)

This form was obviously conceived by the followers of Śiva to assert the supremacy of Śiva over Viṣṇu. The latter took the form of half-lion, half-man to destroy Hiranyakasipu, who was



harassing the gods (see Narasimha avatāra of Vishnu). Vishnu in this form killed the demon but then could not shed off the violent character he had assumed and became very destructive. The whole world turned to Śiva for help. Śiva at once assumed the form of Sarabha, a ferocious monster with two heads, two wings, eight lion legs with claws, and a long tail. He then attacked Narasimha and tore him up. He wore the skin of Narasimha as his garment. This brought Vishnu to his senses and he quietly returned to his abode, praising Śiva.

5. *Kālāri-mūrti (Śiva Reprimanding Kāla or Yama)*  
(Pls. 50-53)

This story narrates the circumstances leading to the chastisement of Kāla or Yama by his master Śiva. Once the Rishi Mrikandu prayed to Śiva for a son. Śiva while promising to give him a son asked him to make a difficult choice. He offered the rishi numerous useless progeny or one remarkable son with a short life. The rishi chose the latter alternative. In due course his wife bore him a son who was named Mārkaṇḍeya. As he began to grow his parents, aware of his short life of only sixteen years, became worried. Somehow Mārkaṇḍeya got to know of this and fervently began to pray to Śiva. As he was absorbed in offering worship to the Liṅga in a shrine, Kāla or Yama, the lord of Death, arrived to take him away from earth. When he started binding him, Śiva burst forth from the Liṅga in great anger and kicked Yama on the chest. Yama went away and Śiva blessed Mārkaṇḍeya with eternal youth so that he became immortal.

6. *Brahmā-sirga-cchedaka-mūrti (Śiva Cutting off the Fifth Head of Brahmā)*

The *Kurma-Purāṇa* describes the dispute between Śiva and Brahmā which led to Brahmā losing his fifth head. Once the sages approached Brahmā and asked him as to who had created the universe. Brahmā asserted that he had created the universe. Śiva suddenly appeared before this gathering of the rishis and claimed that he and not Brahmā had created the universe. The Vedas themselves supported the claims of Śiva. But Brahmā refused to accept the testimony even of the Veda. Then there appeared a huge apparition, Bhairava, the aggressive form of Śiva. The latter asked Bhairava to cut off that head of Brahmā which had lied repeatedly. Bhairava cut off the fifth head of

Brahmā who ultimately accepted the superiority of Śiva.

Another story tells us that Śiva cut off the fifth head of Brahmā because the latter addressed him as 'Kapāli' (skull-cup bearer). He felt insulted and so promptly cut off Brahmā's head. By so doing however he committed the great sin of Brahmahatyā, the sin of killing a Brāhmin. Of course, Brahmā survived by the power of his penance, but the crime had been committed and the head would not fall away from the hands. Then Rudra asked Brahmā how the sin could be wiped out and the head fall off from his hands. He was advised by Brahmā to wander about carrying the Kapāla of Brahmā (Brahmā's skull-cup) for twelve years. After this period, the head would automatically fall off. After this period was over, Rudra-Śiva arrived at Kāśī. Here, the skull-cup of Brahmā fell away from his hands. He then bathed in the holy waters of the Ganges and returned to Kailāsa, his heavenly home.

7. *Kāmāntaka-mūrti (the Destruction of Kāma, the God of Love)*

This is the story which tells how Kāma, the God of Love, had to sacrifice his life in order to save the gods from the demon Tāraka. Dakṣa Prajāpati's daughter Satī had been married to Śiva, about which her father was not really very happy. When therefore she went to her father's sacrifice uninvited, he insulted her and she committed suicide by jumping into the sacrificial fire-pit. This annoyed Śiva, who created the terrible Virabhadra, who destroyed the sacrifice of Dakṣa and made him submit to Śiva. After this incident, Śiva began to practise severe penance.

In these circumstances, the demon Tāraka becoming very powerful, began to harass the gods. Unfortunately for the gods, the only person who could kill Tāraka was to be a son born to Śiva who was then practising austerities. It was obvious that Śiva had to be persuaded to stop his penance and beget a son. The gods feared the wrath of Śiva, so that nobody dared disturb him. They deputed Kāma, the God of Love, to create thoughts of love in the mind of the Great Yogi. He, with his characteristic thoroughness, used his flowery darts and made Śiva forget his penance, and made him think of female company. But this made Śiva very angry. In his anger, he burnt Kāma to ashes. But Kāma had already done his work, so that Śiva fell in love with Pārvatī, who was born to



Himavan. He married her and begot Kumāra or Subrahmanya, who ultimately killed the demon Tāraka. Kāma's wife Rati pleaded for her husband and Śiva promised that he would be re-born as Pradyumna.

8. *Andhakāśura-vadha-mūrti (the Destruction of the Demon Andhaka) (Pls. 54-57)*

A number of panels in Ellora depict the killing of the demon Andhaka at the hands of Śiva. It is possible that the Asura Andhaka of the Purāṇas might be the Ardhaka of the Vedas and the Andhaka of the *Mahābhārata*. The *Atharva Veda* describes Rudra as 'Ardhaka-ghatin' or the 'slayer of Ardhaka.' The story runs thus: Andhakāśura was a great king who fell in love with Pārvatī, Śiva's consort, and cultivated a strong desire for her person. This led to a war between Andhaka and Śiva. Out of every drop of blood shed by the demon Andhaka, a fresh and mighty demon was created and this made Śiva's job extremely difficult. Śiva thereupon created Chāmundā and the Sapta-matrikās (Seven Divine Mothers) to drink up the blood. But after they had become gorged with this drink, demons again began to be created from the blood-drops of Andhaka. Śiva then sought the help of Vishnu and was about to kill Andhaka with his spear when the demon praised him and obtained his pardon. He then became the chief commander of the ganas of Śiva (dwarf attendants) and was named Bhṛingisa or Bhṛingirishi.

## OTHER ASPECTS OF ŚIVA

(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

9. *Gangādharā-mūrti (Śiva Receiving the River Ganges or Gangā in his Jatā) (Pls. 58-59)*

A king called Sagara had sixty thousand sons by his second wife and one by his first wife. The latter was named Asamāñjasa, meaning 'one of little commonsense.' His bad example spoiled all the sons of Sagara who therefore soon came to grief. Sagara decided to have a horse-sacrifice and so let loose the sacrificial horse. This wandered away to a hermitage. To mislead the sons of Sagara, Indra placed the horse in Kapilā's hermitage. When the sons of Sagara reached the nether world, they found the horse in the hermitage. They thought that Kapilā had carried away the horse and so rushed to destroy him. The rishi in his great anger reduced them to ashes.

Sagara sent his grandson Amsumat to find them. He reached the hermitage of Kapilā, found the horse, and very courteously requested the sage to permit him to take away the horse. Pleased with his manners, the rishi allowed him to take away the horse, and informed him how his uncles had met their destiny at his hands, promising however that all of them would go to heaven in the time of his grandson. He told him that this would happen only after the holy waters of the Ganges had been brought to the nether world and allowed to flow on his uncles. The grandson of Amsumat was Bhagiratha. To bring down the Ganges from heaven to earth, he practised very severe austerities. Gangā, pleased with this worship, agreed to leave her celestial abode if he could find somebody to receive her fall, as otherwise, by the force of her fall, the earth would break in the middle. Bhagiratha told her that Śiva could bear her fall and now began to pray to Śiva to persuade him to receive Gangā on his head. Śiva came to the Himalayas to receive her. The haughty Gangā came down in great force, thinking thus to humble Śiva. The latter, annoyed at her behaviour, made Gangā wind through his matted hair (jatā) and would not let her descend. Bhagiratha thereupon again prayed Śiva to let Gangā descend to earth. Śiva let her down, and Bhagiratha led her to the ashes of his ancestors, who attained heaven by her touch. That is why Śiva always reveals the head of Gangā in his jatā.

10. *Ardhanārīśvara (the Half-male, Half-female Form of Śiva) (Pls. 60-64)*

The *Śiva-Purāṇa* tells us that Brahmā created a number of Prajāpatis—males—expecting them to begin the task of creation. By themselves these male beings could not undertake the task of creation. Brahmā could not understand as to why the Prajāpatis could not multiply and so he worshipped Śiva, who appeared before him in the form of Ardhanārī (half-male, half-female). On seeing him, Brahmā realised his error. Only with the creation of the female, could he begin the task of creation. The idea behind it all is that the union of the male and female principles alone leads to creation. This is so in the Greek tradition too as well as in the Chinese and Persian traditions. The Liṅga and Yoni to whom worship is offered are symbolic of the male and female generative organs. They symbolise the supreme creative principle.



Another account of the Ardhanārī form states that Pārvatī, the consort of Śiva became one with him when the rishi Bhṛngī persisted in offering worship to Śiva alone and not to Śiva and Pārvatī both as others did.

#### 11. *Harihara Form of Śiva* (Pls. 65-66)

There is in reality only one supreme deity. God is one. People may call him by different names. To some he may be Brahmā, to some Viṣṇu and to some Śiva, but they are really all one. But sometimes the worshippers of these various forms forget this and then they engage in sectarian quarrels. To avoid this and to emphasise the oneness of God, this syncretic god came into being—the combination of Hari (Viṣṇu) and Hara (Śiva). In a sculpture of Harihara or Haryaddha, the right half is Śiva and the left half is Viṣṇu.

#### 12. *Kalyāṇasundara-mūrti (the Marriage of Śiva and Pārvatī)* (Pls. 67-70a, b, c)

A famous Śaiva legend narrated in the Śānti Parva of the epic *Mahābhārata* tells us how Dakṣa, one of the twelve Prajāpatis created by Brahmā, cursed his own son-in-law, Śiva, when the latter failed to show him proper respect on the occasion of the Prajāpati sacrifice. Before the entire assembly of the gods he declared that henceforth no oblations were to be offered to Śiva. When Dakṣa performed another sacrifice, he did not invite Śiva. Śiva's wife Sati felt greatly humiliated at this. She alleged that her husband did nothing to vindicate his honour. Śiva tried to pacify his angry spouse by telling her that those who knew, knew that he was the Supreme Deity. The Devi refused to be pacified and taunted her spouse by saying, 'Every common man praises himself in an assembly of women.' She then proceeded to attend the sacrifice of her father, where she was again humiliated; whereupon, she burnt herself. Greatly incensed, Śiva created Virabhadra, who destroyed Dakṣa's sacrifice and made him submit to Śiva.

Sati was re-born the daughter of Himavan. As soon as she attained age, she started penance to attain Śiva. Śiva also was then engaged in practising severe austerities. At about this time the demon Tāraka began to harass the gods armed with the boon of Brahmā. This demon was destined to die at the hands of the son of Śiva and, there-

fore, it was necessary to get Śiva married. Kāma, the God of Love, was deputed by the gods to break Śiva's penance, which he did. But he became the victim of Śiva's anger and got burnt up in the process. Kāma, however, had succeeded in making Śiva feel amorous. Śiva married Pārvatī. (See page 42, *Kāmāntaka-mūrti*.)

Before he did this, he decided to test the steadfastness of Pārvatī, and taking the form of an old man, he approached her, begging for food. As he proceeded to take a bath, he contrived to get caught by a crocodile and called out to Pārvatī for help. Pārvatī hesitated to stretch out her arm to help as she had vowed not to touch any hand but that of Śiva. But when she feared the old Brāhmin's life might be lost, she begged forgiveness of her Lord and extended her arm for help. Śiva was much gratified at this and revealed his true form. Pārvatī felt happy that her vow had not been broken.

#### Sculptural Representations

In the sculptures of the Śiva-Pārvatī marriage, the two form the central figures and face the east. In composite stone sculptures, Viṣṇu and his two wives, Lakṣmī and Bhū, act as Pārvatī's parents and give away the bride. Viṣṇu's wives stand behind Pārvatī and touch her waist, which is indicative of the act of giving away the bride. Viṣṇu stands behind Śiva and Pārvatī, holding a golden pot of water. In the foreground are sculptured the eight guardians of the Quarters (*Aṣṭadīkṣpālās*), the Siddhas (persons of great power), Yakṣās (semi-divine beings), other semi-divine beings called Gandharvas, the Seven Divine Mothers (the *Sapta-matṛikās*) etc. However, all sculptural compositions may not be so complete. In bronzes, only Śiva and Pārvatī are usually seen.

In the standing figures of Śiva taking the hand of Pārvatī in marriage, the latter generally stands on the right of the god whose front right arm holds Pārvatī's hand. If, however, Pārvatī stands on the left, Śiva's right arm is stretched across the body to clasp her hand.

#### 13. *Viṣṇubhāradva-mūrti (Śiva Seated or Reclining on a Bull)*

The sculpture is highly venerated since it is believed that it is in this form that Śiva most frequently appears before his devotees.



14. *Vishapaharāṇa-mūrti* (Śiva Drinking Poison to Save the World) (Pls. 71-73)

During the churning of the ocean by the gods and the demons, among other things, poison emerged, which threatened to destroy the world. Then Śiva offered to drink the poison in order to save it from destruction.

### DAKSHIṆA-MURTIS

(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

Śiva is the great master of Yoga, music, dancing and of other sciences. As a universal teacher, he is called Dakṣiṇa-mūrti. Dakṣiṇa means south, and since Śiva was seated facing the south when he taught the sages, he came to be known by this name.

Śiva is an expounder of the Śāstras. As Jñāna-Dakṣiṇa-mūrti he is represented as seated in the savya lalitāsana (with the right leg pendant), with the left one bent and resting on the right thigh (Pl. 74). As a teacher of Śāstras he is known as Vyākhyāna-Dakṣiṇa-mūrti (Pl. 75). He has four arms, of which one right is held in the jñāna mudrā and the other holds a rosary. One left hand is in the boon-giving pose, while one other left hand holds either fire or snake. Rishis, seeking knowledge, surround the teacher-god.

Śiva is master not only of the Śāstras, but he is also a great master of music, both vocal and instrumental. Śiva, as a music teacher is called Vinādhara-Dakṣiṇa-mūrti.

As Yoga-Dakṣiṇa-mūrti, Śiva practises penance. So his eyes are fixed on the tip of the nose. One of his right hands is held near the chest in the yoga-mudrā, while a left hand rests upon the lap in the typical yogic posture.

### NRITTA-MURTIS

(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

Śiva is a great master of the art of dancing. The *Bharata-Nāṭyāśāstra* mentions 108 different kinds of dance poses and in the *Saivagamas* it is stated that Śiva danced in 108 modes. These modes as mentioned by the two texts may be identical.

Though the *Saivagamas* mention 108 modes of Śiva's dances they actually describe only nine. One is that of Natarāja described in the *Aṅgama-bhāṣya*.

*The Dance of Śiva as Natarāja* (Pls 76-79)

Śiva, the Mahāyogi, is also Natarāja, the Lord

of Dancers. Dancing is a form of magic in which the personality of the dancer becomes transformed, the dancer becoming endowed with supra-terrestrial powers in the process. Dancing is an act of creation. Śiva, in his dance manifestation, is the Cosmic Dancer and gives manifestation to Eternal Energy. Through his frantic motions he generates the powers of evolution, maintenance and dissolution of the world.

The Natarāja figures are meaningful. Śiva carries a drum in the upper right hand (Pls. 78-79). This connotes Sound, the vehicle of speech. Sound is associated with Ether, the primary manifestation of the Brahman, the Universal Soul. From Ether are generated a number of other elements like Air, Fire, Water and Earth. When the process of manifestation begins, it is with Sound and Ether.

The upper left hand of Natarāja bears on its palm a tongue of flame. At the end of the Kali Age, Fire will consume creation. While the drum is symbolic of the act of creation, the flame of fire is suggestive of destruction.

The second right hand of Śiva is in the protection attitude. This hand is pointed downwards to the uplifted left foot. This foot is suggestive of salvation.

Śiva dances on the prostrate body of the dwarf Apasmāra Puruṣa, who symbolises ignorance or darkness. The Darkness of Ignorance can be destroyed by the attainment of knowledge, which releases man from the bondage of existence.

The figure of Natarāja is encompassed by a ring of flame and light, which is symbolic of the holy syllable AUM. This is an affirmation of creation. 'A is the state of waking consciousness, together with its world of gross experience, U is the state of dreaming consciousness, together with its experience of the subtle shapes of dreams, M is the state of dreamless sleep, the natural condition of undifferentiated consciousness. The Silence following the pronunciation of the three A, U, and M is the ultimate unmanifest.'

Śiva as the cosmic dancer is the embodiment and manifestation of eternal energy in its five activities: (1) Creation, (2) Maintenance, (3) Destruction, (4) Concealment, and (5) Favour.

### ŚIVA AS MAHĀYOGI (Pl. 80)

According to the Śaivites, Śiva is Creator-Protector-Destroyer. He sits in deep meditation,



as Mahāyogi, but when he does so, the guardians of the Quarters become worried since His Divine Presence is required to conduct the affairs of the cosmos. They come and request him to protect the world from Evil.

### CHANDRAŚEKHARA-MURTIS

(For iconographical details, see following Tables)

These are benign forms of Śiva in a standing or sitting posture, smiling, handsome, with a crescent in the hair. The five most important representations are:

#### Standing Images

Kevala-Chandraśekhara-mūrti. Śiva standing alone with the usual emblems.

Umā-Sahita-mūrti. With consort Umā.

Alīngana-mūrti. Śiva embracing standing Devi (holding flower) with front left hand.

Paśupata-mūrti. Holds a rosary and trident in the back hands.

Rudra-Paśupata-mūrti. With serious expression and carries a sword, chisel, skull-cup and trident. This image is rare.

#### Sitting Images

Sukhāsana-mūrti. Sitting alone in Sukhāsana.

Umā-Sahita-mūrti. Sitting with consort Umā on left.

Soma-Skanda-mūrti. As above but with their son Skanda present between them.

Umā-Maheśvara-mūrti. Consort seated on left thigh of seated Śiva, his arm embracing her.

### ŚIVA-ŚAKTI

"In Indian sculpture, Śiva and Śakti sit in close embrace, regarding each other with intense emotion. Gazing with deep and everlasting rapture, they are imbued with the secret knowledge that though, seemingly two, they are fundamentally one."

For the sake of the universe and its creatures, the Absolute has unfolded into this duality, and out of their union derive all the polarities and antagonisms that characterise life.

The God and Goddess are the first self-revelation of the Absolute, the male being the personification of the passive aspect we know as Eternity, the female activating energy being Time. Though apparently opposites, they are in essence one.

The God dwells in the Liṅgam—the phallus. The Goddess is the Yoni, 'mother-womb of the ever cycling eons, of all the universes endlessly extending in space, of every atom in the living cell.'

### SKANDA, KĀRTTIKEYA OR SUBRAHMANYA (Pls. 81-86)

Skanda, who is more popularly known in the South as God Subrahmanya, is avoided by ladies living in Maharashtra, as his darshana (seeing him) would bring them widowhood. In the South, Subrahmanya temples are very common. In the North, he is not so popular and so his temples are rare.

In the Gāyatri hymns, he is called by various names: Kumāra, Kārttikeya, and Skanda. The Purāṇic legends associate him with the Sun-god. He is described as the son of Agni and his wife Svāhā. In Hindu legends, Agni is one of the names of Rudra and the latter is also another name of Śiva. Pārvatī had taken the form of Svāhā. So Skanda became the son of Śiva and Pārvatī.

Many Purāṇic legends tell stories of his bravery. He leads the army of the gods and destroys the Demon Tāraka, and Krauñcha. So he is called Skanda, Kumāra, Kārttikeya, Shanmukha, Guha, Agnibhū, Subrahmanya, Gāṅgeya, Tārakāri, Mahāsenā, Krauñchandarana, etc.

#### Iconography of Skanda

##### Symbols

Cock (Kukkuta), varada or abhaya mudrās, Śakti, noose, sword, arrow, śūla, flag, bow, shield, closed fist, outstretched palm; peacock feather and sword; lotus in both hands.

##### Vehicle

Peacock.

##### Hands

Two, four, six, eight, or twelve.

### VIRABHADRA

Virabhadra is a form of Śiva. He was created by Śiva to destroy the sacrifice of his father-in-law Daksha (see pages 42, 44). Many accounts mention the enmity between Śiva and Daksha. Once the latter paid a visit to Śiva accompanied



by his wife. Śiva tried his best to be a good host and please his wife's father, who was not pleased. When Śiva's wife went to visit her father, he spoke very ill of her husband and ultimately asked her to leave his house when she tried to defend her spouse. This action of her father so deeply humiliated her that she burnt herself and was re-born to Himavan and named Pārvatī. When Śiva learnt of this, his sorrow was great and he cursed his father-in-law to be born as a Kshatriya and commit incest with his own daughter in that birth. Thus Daksha became King Prachetās. He began to perform a great sacrifice and made offerings to all the gods excepting Śiva. When the great sage Dadhicha noticed this, he tried to persuade the king to make offerings to Śiva also, but the latter refused. Dadhicha then cursed the king and all those who were present there. He then invoked Śiva. Pārvatī also came there and asked Śiva to destroy the sacrifice. Śiva then created Virabhadra 'with a thousand heads, a thousand arms, a thousand eyes, powerful shoulders, and resembling in brightness the fire that devours the universe at the end of an aeon; having side-tusks, carrying the śaṅkha, the chakra and a bow and besmeared with ashes.' Virabhadra was now asked to destroy the sacrifice of Prachetās who was Daksha. Pārvatī created Bhadrakālī to help Virabhadra. Virabhadra was absolutely irresistible. He destroyed the sacrifice, and played great havoc with the army of the gods. He pulled out the teeth and plucked out the eyes of Sūrya, severed the hands and tongue of the Fire-god Agni, made Indra's arm stiff, crushed the Moon-god with his big toe and made Garuḍa, the vehicle of Viṣṇu, run for his life. Daksha was so completely demoralised that he now prayed to Śiva and offered him apologies. Śiva pardoned him his error and promised him leadership of his gaṇas at a later date.

Another story describes the events leading to an open conflict between Daksha and Śiva in a different manner. Once while the gods and the sages had assembled for a sacrifice, Daksha entered the hall of sacrifice. All the gods paid their respects to Daksha Prajāpati. But Brahmā and Śiva kept their seats. Daksha made his obeisance to Brahmā and took his seat, but he was highly incensed that Śiva should have failed to pay him respects. In his great anger, he reviled Śiva in the most objectionable language and ultimately ended by cursing him that he would

not be given any portion of the sacrifice offered to the gods. Śiva returned to his abode without saying a word. After a few years, Daksha began to offer an important sacrifice to which he did not invite Śiva and his wife. But when his wife Satī saw all the gods with their consorts going to her father's 'yāga', she insisted on going too. Śiva narrated to her the incident of his last humiliation, yet she persisted. Satī was insulted by her father, and feeling greatly humiliated, she jumped into the fire and committed self-immolation. When Śiva learnt of this tragedy, he was furious and created Virabhadra out of a lock of his matted hair. Virabhadra destroyed the sacrifice and made Daksha submit to Śiva.

#### *Virabhadra in Sculptural Form*

*Hands*—Four.

*Eyes*—Three.

*Objects in hands*—R.h., sword and arrow.

L.h., bow and mace.

*Misc.*—Terrific face with fierce side-tusks.

Wears a garland of skulls.

*Companions*—Bhadrakālī on the side. On the right side of Virabhadra is Daksha with a goat's head, two eyes and two horns, and with hands held in añjali pose.

Virabhadra may also carry sword and shield, bow and arrow.

### GAṆEŚA (Pls. 87-91)

The word 'Gaṇapati' is mentioned twice in the *Rig Veda*. But it does not refer to Gaṇeśa, but to Brihaspati. In the 10th Maṇḍala, the word Gaṇapati is used with reference to Indra.

In the *Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā*, however, reference is made to Gāṇapatyas, i.e., worshippers of Gaṇapati. Gaṇapati is also referred to as Hastimukha, Danti. The *Taittirīya Āraṇyaka*, and the *Nārāyaṇa Upanishad* refer to Vakratuṇḍa, Danti, etc. In the *Gaṇeśa Atharva-shirsha*, he is referred to as Ekdanta, Vakratuṇḍa, and Danti.

The *Mānava-Gṛhya-Sūtra* speaks of four types of Vināyakas (mildly malevolent forms of Gaṇeśa). When a person is possessed by any one of them, he starts behaving like a madman, dreams bad dreams, feels that he is being followed. Princes do not inherit their patrimonies; girls do not get husbands; married women do not get children; the preceptor and teacher forget all they know,

Certain magic formulae are prescribed to drive away the evil Vināyakas.

In the *Baudhāyana-Dharma-Sūtra*, Gauapati is referred to as Vighna, Vināyaka, Sthūla, Hasti-mukha, Vakratunda, Ekdanta, and Lambodara.

In the *Yājñyalkya-smṛiti*, Vināyaka is appointed as chief of Siva's Ganas. His job is to create difficulties in the performance of sacrifices. His mother is Ambikā-Pārvalī. He has to be placated to keep him out of mischief.

In the course of his assimilation into Aryan worship, the character of Gaṇeśa changed. From being an evil and inauspicious deity he became an auspicious one; so much so that every ceremony has to begin with his invocation. The education of a Hindu child begins with 'Shri Gaṇeśāya Namaḥ.' His images are carved on houses, temples, etc.

Sociologically, the Śaivite gods may have been non-Aryans who resolutely opposed Aryan worship; or they may have been the gods (if not tribal leaders) of the non-Aryans. In the course of time, they stopped harassing Yajña worship or destroying Yajñic sacrifices. The two cultures became reconciled. In the process, the non-Aryan deities became absorbed into Aryan worship, and the character of the gods changed and became auspicious.

The early descriptions of the god were not flattering. His elephant head, Hasti-mukha, was described as crooked (Vakratunda); he was described as having only one tooth (Ekdanta). He is Lambodara—with a hanging belly.

*Iconography:* 4-handed—holding paraśu, laddus, tooth and lotus.



## MINOR DEITIES

### DIK-PĀLAS OR LOKA-PĀLAS

(THE GUARDIANS OF THE QUARTERS)

INDRA, Agni, Yama, Nirruti, Varuṇa, Vāyu, Kubera and Iśāna are the eight guardians of the Quarters.

The Sun rises in the east. It is the source of all Energy. All the gods, therefore, live in the east. So Indra, the King of the Gods, became the guardian of the Eastern Quarter.

The Aryans had a great contempt for the non-Aryans. They lived in South India. The south was therefore considered inauspicious because it was inhabited by people who did not follow Aryan worship. Death is most inauspicious; therefore Yama, the God of Death, became the guardian of the Southern Quarter.

On the west, India is girdled by the (Arabian) sea. Varuṇa is the water-deity and so the guardian of the Western Quarter.

The Yakshās are supposed to live in the north. So the chief of the Yakshās, Kubera, became the guardian of the Northern Quarter.

Iśāna is another name of Śiva. His vehicle is the Bull Nandi.

	West			
	Nirruti	Varuṇa	Vāyu	
South	Yama		Kubera	North
	Agni	Indra	Iśāna	
	East			

### I. INDRA (Pls. 92-93)

Indra was one of the most prominent deities of Vedic times. He is the 'rainer' or 'irrigator,' the word 'Indra' being derived from the word 'Indu' meaning drops of rain. He corresponds to the Roman Jupiter Pluvius. Indra is king of the starry heavens, the god of thunder and of the natural elements, with inferior genii at his command; he governs the Eastern Quarter of the world, and also presides over the celestial bands stationed on the golden Mount Meru where he solaces the gods with nectar and heavenly music. 'He resides in the celestial city... There are to be found Apsaras, the celestial dancing girls... His consort is Indrāni, and he rides the elephant *Alāvata*...'

Indra's popularity as a rain-god can be appreciated only in the tropics, where the great heat of the sun dries up all vegetation, river systems, lakes, wells, and does not leave anything even for the starving cattle. For want of water all suffer—man, animal and Nature—and all call out for rain, the life-giving water. At such time, the people address hymns to the rain-god Indra to avert the calamity of famine and starvation and to break the power of the demon Vṛitra, who holds the waters in his coils. They offer him his favourite drink—the soma juice. Then a flash of lightning is seen as Indra begins to hurl his bolts against the demon Vṛitra. Vṛitra howls as he flees. Then the waters come pouring down on the parched dry land and all rejoice—man, beast, and vegetation.

Indra of the Vedas is the son of Father Heaven (Dyaus Pitao) and Mother Earth (Prithvi) and the twin-brother of Agni.

In the post-Vedic period, Indra lost his importance and was reduced to the inferior position of a mere guardian of the Eastern Quarter.

#### *Iconographic Representations*

Indra is represented as a fair man riding a white elephant, Airāvata. He is four-armed. In one hand he carries the vajra, the terrible thunder-bolt, and in the others are seen a conch-shell, bow and arrows, a hook and a net.

### 2. AGNI, THE FIRE-GOD (Pl. 94)

Agni's popularity in the Vedic period is attested to by the large number of hymns addressed to him in the Vedas. The discovery of fire revolutionized human life. It made cooking possible and also provided heat and light to the people. It leapt forth out of hard rock or by friction of two pieces of wood. Its origin seemed so mysterious. The Vedic poets identified Agni with the warmth of the fire on the hearth and altar. They identified it with light and heat, and so with the Dawn and the Sun. So the Fire-god appeared in its many phases: in heaven as the Sun, in mid-air as lightning, and on earth as ordinary fire.

Out of human imagination arose a magnificent Godhead. Agni came to be regarded as an immortal who lived with mortal men. He was the domestic priest who rose before dawn. He radiated warmth when kindled, in the domestic hearth. He was a visible god, who lived in the dwellings of men, was witness to their actions, their 'counsellor and director.' He it was who kindled the sacrificial fire and conveyed the oblation and sacrifices of the mortals to the gods above. Agni thus became the mediator between god and man. He dispelled the darkness and terror of the night and gave courage to men.

Agni lost the pre-eminence he enjoyed in the Vedic period. The Epics say that he had exhausted himself by devouring too many oblations. Though the Fire-god has lost his early importance, he is invoked even today on all important occasions.

#### *Iconographic Representations*

In sculpture and paintings, Agni is represented as pot-bellied, red in colour, with one or two

faces. He has three legs and seven arms. He rides a ram. From his mouth flames issue, by means of which he licks up the butter used in sacrifices. Agni's two faces represent the two fires—solar and terrestrial. His three legs represent the three sacred fires—the nuptial, the ceremonial, and the sacrificial. His seven arms may denote the universal power of the all-pervading fire.

### 3. YAMA—JUDGE AND REGENT OF THE DEAD

Yama is the first of the mortals. He is the Hindu Pluto. As he was the first born, he was the first to depart this life. He is the son of the Sun—Vivasvat. According to Max Muller, the Sun, conceived as setting or dying every day, was the first who had trodden the path of life from east to west—the first mortal—the first to show us the way when our course is run and our sun sets in the far west. He presides over the dead. As a Judge, he presides over his Court. His record-keeper is Chitragupta who reads out his register, the *Agra-Sandhani*, the tale of a man's life. After the record is read, Yama balances good and evil, and the soul of the dead man either ascends to Heaven (Swarga) or descends to the twenty-one hells (Naraka) of Hinduism.

After death all souls go directly to Yama. This journey takes four hours and forty minutes. The dead body must not be cremated till this journey is accomplished.

### 4. VARUNA (Pl. 95)

Varuna enjoyed great prestige in the Vedic period. He is the chief of the *Ādityas*, 'invincible, imperishable, eternal beings,' sons of *Āditi* (representing Infinity). In the Vedic period, Varuna was the supreme deity. 'He it is who makes the sun to shine in the heavens; the winds that blow are but his breath; he has hollowed out the channels of the rivers which flow at his command, and he has made the depths of the sea. His ordinances are fixed and unassailable; through their operation the moon walks in brightness, and the stars which appear in the nightly sky vanish in daylight. . . . He knows the flights of the birds in the sky, the course of the far travelling wind, the path of ships on the ocean, and beholds all the secret things that have been, or shall be, done. He witnesses men's truth and falsehood'.



Varuṇa, the omniscient deity of the Vedas was gradually superseded by the war-like and tumultuous Indra. In the Purāṇic times, Varuṇa, from being the highest god, became a mere god of the ocean, a second-rate Neptune.

#### Iconographic Representations

Varuṇa is represented as a white man sitting on a fabulous monster with the head and front legs of an antelope and the body and tail of a fish. He carries a noose in his right hand.

#### 5. NIRRTI

Though Nirrti is an ancient god mentioned in the *Rig-Veda*, not much is known about him. In later Hindu mythology, he becomes the guardian of the South-Western quarter.

#### Iconographic Representations

Hands—Two.

Objects in hands—*R.h.*, sword; *L.h.*, shield or staff.

Vehicle—Lion or man, or an ass.

Misc.—Decked with ornaments. Surrounded by rākshasas (demons) and seven celestial damsels (apsaras). Also by his four wives—Devī, Kṛishṇāṅgi, Kṛishṇavadanā, and Kṛishṇapāśa. The apsaras who accompany him must be pretty, have smiling faces, and must have well-developed breasts, thick thighs, slender waists, etc.

#### 6. VĀYU (Pl. 96)

Vāyu is a Vedic deity. He belongs to the elements. In early literature, Indra appears as the father of the Maruts, the deities of the wind. The epic *Mahābhārata* makes him the sire of the valiant Pandava prince Bhīma, and also of Hanuman the Monkey-god.

#### Iconographic Representations

Vehicle—Sits on a lion-seat or on deer, the latter vehicle being more common in sculptural representations.

Hands—Two or four.

Objects in hands—*R.h.*, flag; *L.h.*, staff.

If four-handed: *R.h.* in patākā-hasta pose or holds a goad. He may also carry a wheel.

Misc.—Youthful and powerful. Decked in ornaments. To his left may be seated his consort.

#### 7. KUBERA

The epic *Rāmāyana* narrates the story of Kubera or Vaiśravaṇa. The God Brahmā begot a mānasa-putra (mind-born son). He was named Pulastya. His son was Vaiśravaṇa. He became very much attached to his grandfather Brahmā. This should not have made his father jealous, but it did. The grandfather was of course greatly flattered, made Vaiśravaṇa immortal, gave him lordship over wealth and installed him in Lankā (modern Ceylon). Furious, his father Pulastya begot himself another son, and named him Vaiśravas, who disliked his brother Vaiśravaṇa as much as his father. Vaiśravaṇa was sorry that he annoyed his father so much, and so to pacify him, presented him with three very pretty rākshasis (female demons). One of these gave birth to Rāvaṇa and Kumbhakarna, another to Vibhishana and the third to Raka, Khara and Śurpanakhā. These sons were jealous of the prosperity of their brother Vaiśravaṇa, practised austerities, and got boons from their grandfather Brahmā. This additional power was then used against Vaiśravaṇa, who was himself Brahmā's favourite. Rāvaṇa attacked Vaiśravaṇa and expelled him from Lankā.

In Hindu mythology, Kubera appears as the God of wealth. In Buddhist literature also he appears in the same capacity. He becomes the lord of the Yakshās and becomes the husband of Hārītī. He is also known as Jambhala.

#### Iconographic Representations

Vehicle—Lotus seat, or a chariot driven by men or riding on shoulders of man. Sometimes on a ram or elephant.

Hands—Two or four.

Objects in hands—*Two hands*: one in boon-giving attitude and one in the protection pose, or the left hand may carry a mace.

*Four hands*: with one he embraces his consort Vibhavā, and with the other, he embraces another spouse Vriddhi, who sit on the left and right laps respectively of their Lord.

Misc.—Big and pendant belly. To right and left of Kubera should be the two Nidhis,



Saṅkha and Padma, the former to the right and the latter to the left. His two consorts Vibhavā and Vṛiddhī embrace Kubera with one hand and carry in the other a bowl containing jewels.

Variation—Kubera may have the elephant as his vehicle and may carry in his four hands, a mace, a purse containing money, a pomegranate fruit and a vase.

#### SŪRYA (Pl. 97)

Sūrya was an important solar deity in the early Vedic period. The Vedas refer to him frequently as Savitṛi, Pūṣan, Bhaga, Vivasvat, Mitra, Aryaman, and Vishṇu. As Savitṛi, he is 'stimulator of everything.' The term Pūṣan implies his beneficent power. As Bhaga he becomes the distributor of wealth. As Vivasvat, he becomes the first sacrificer and the 'ancestor of the human race.'

He is referred to as one of the Ādityas (sons of Āditi, an abstract, mysterious creation, representing Infinity), who are praised in Vedic literature. Sūrya is mentioned as an Āditya along with Mitra (an important Indo-Iranian god), Aryaman (meaning a friend), Bhāga (giver of wealth), Varuṇa (supreme deity of the Heavens and the giver of the Rīti, (the Law of Nature), Dakṣha (symbolizing Wisdom), Amṣa (has the same attributes as Bhāga) and Sūrya (he has a chariot drawn by innumerable horses. Sometimes, the number of horses is said to be seven or one with seven heads).

The Rīgvedic Sūrya is described as a 'beautiful-winged bird' or as 'moving in a car drawn by one, seven, or several fleet and sturdy horses.' The Epics and the Purāṇas narrate the story of Sūrya's marriage with Samjñā, the daughter of Vishvakarmā, the Divine Architect. Unable to bear the intense effulgence of her Lord, she deserts him, leaving behind her shadow (Chhāyā). The fraud is discovered only after Chhāyā had borne three children to Sūrya. Sūrya goes in search of his wife, finds her in the cold regions of the north. Vishvakarmā persuades Sūrya to be refashioned at his hands. Out of the effulgent Sūrya, the Divine Architect produces a beautiful form. His legs, however, remained unfashioned.

To those who offered worship to the Sun, he seemed to be the cause of Being. He was the life-giver, the supreme soul and the creator of the

universe. Much earlier, in Egypt, a heretic king Amenhotep IV (1380 B.C.) had proclaimed the supremacy of the Sun-god, the 'source of all earthly life and light.' The cult of the Sun owed much to Iranian Sun-worship. It is interesting to note that the priests who were entitled to instal images of the Sun-god were the Magi, the Sun-Priests of Iran. In Iran, Sun-worship was extremely popular. The Iranian Mitra is a Sun-god. The *Bṛihat-Saṁhitā* gives detailed instructions concerning the installation of Sūrya images. The worshippers of the Sun-god are known as Sauras.

Sūrya rose to eminence in the Purāṇic period. His wives are listed: Samjñā, Rājñī, Prabhā, Dyau, Nīkshubhā, Chhāyā, etc. His children too are mentioned: Yama, Śrutashravasa, Śrutakarmā, Ashvināu, Revanta, Vivasvat, Manu, Yāmūnā, Tapatī, Prabhat, Ilapati, Piṅgalapati.

Apart from separate temples dedicated to the Sun-god, he is also included in the Hindu Pañchāyatana system. Pañchāyatana is the worship of five gods installed in one main and four side temples located in the subsidiary quarters. In the Sūrya-Pañchāyatana, small temples dedicated to Gaṇeśa, Vishṇu, Devī and Śiva are erected in the subsidiary quarters, with the Sūrya temple in the centre.

In the evolution of Hindu worship, Sūrya lost his importance by the 12th century A.D. The last important temples dedicated to him are located in the extreme east (Konārak in Orissa) and the extreme west (Modhera in Gujarat). Now he was reduced to the position of a planet (Gṛaha). Nava-graha slabs are found at many places, like Saptamātrikā slabs. Sometimes the planets are carved on ceilings of temples.

The icons of the Sun-god evolved in the South became popular in the North. Those found in certain places like Bodhgaya, Bhūmāra and Afghanistan show the influence of the Greek Sun-god Helios.

#### Iconographic Representations

Sūrya stands erect on a lotus pedestal, holding in his two hands two full-blown lotuses which rise just above the shoulders. He has a smiling countenance and a halo around his head. He wears a protective armour. His feet and part of the two legs are covered by high boots, a peculiar feature only of the Sun-god. In front of the god stands a miniature female figure, in front of which is represented the legless Aruṇa, the charioteer



of the Sun, holding a whip in his right hand, and the reins of the horses in his left. The horses are seven in number and the chariot moves on a single wheel. To the right of the Sun-god, a female is shown standing, holding either a lotus or a fly-whisk in her right hand. To her right is shown a bearded man with protruding belly, carrying pen and inkstand in his hands. To his right again is shown another female, shooting arrows. To the left of the Sun-god are represented three similar figures, but the male one is without a beard and holds either a staff or sword or a conch-shell in one of his hands.

All these figures, except the two females shooting arrows, wear boots like the Sun-god. Eleven

miniature figures, exactly like the Sun-god, are sometimes represented near the edges of the carved slab, generally five on each side of the god and one over his head.

The *Matsya-Purāṇa* tells us that Sūrya's two attendants are to be Daṇḍa and Piṅgala, with swords in their hands. The god Brahmā is to be placed on one side with a pen in his hands. On no account are the feet of the Sun-god to be represented. Anyone who infringes this sacred injunction would be smitten with leprosy. Sūrya's body is to be covered by a coat of mail. He has a girdle called Paliyaṅga.

Sometimes, instead of seven horses, only one is depicted but with seven heads.

## THE GODDESSES

THE PART played by the woman in the perpetuation of the species was not ignored by the Vedic seers. This had to be recognised in religion. The intellect of the Vedic seer had been illumined by the vision of the ONE whom the motionless, inscrutable, deep, dark void in labour gave birth to. The majesty of this August Mother could not but be realised early. She is called Āditi—Boundlessness personified.

Āditi is Universal Nature. She is the spouse of Rīta, the cosmic order or Law prevailing in Nature. She is the sky, the air, the mother, the father, the son. She is whatever has been born; she is whatever shall be born. She is not only the Universal Nature but also the Universal Mother.

The Purāṇic conception of the Devī is the same as that of Āditi. Through the course of the development of the theory of Śakti, her maternal aspect is never lost sight of. The next development of this line of thought is reached when the maternal aspect of Śakti led to her inevitable characterisation as wife. Here even her conception does not subordinate her to the husband. Śakti is the female counterpart of Śiva: Prakṛiti is the female energy of Puruṣa; but it is she who is the dynamic principle. Śiva is powerful and active only with Śakti, otherwise he is in torpor and inactive.

This wifely aspect of the Original Mother has been accounted for in the Purāṇas by the story of the birth of the Triad, Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva, from the Devī, who ultimately took Śiva as her consort.

### 1. SARASVATĪ (Pls. 98-103)

She is the goddess of learning and culture. Her other names are: Vāk, Vāgdevī, Vāgīśvarī, Bhārati, Vānī, etc.

She is popular with the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Jains. The Buddhists have made her the consort of Mañjuśrī, the Bodhisattva of Wisdom. In Hindu mythology, she is sometimes consorted with Brahmā and sometimes with Viṣṇu or Gaṇeśa. She is ordinarily represented sitting on a lotus seat with one leg pendant, playing on a Vīṇā—a lute-like stringed musical instrument.

The R̥gvedic Sarasvatī is the manifestation of a river of that name. In the course of time, she came to be identified with the Vedic goddess Vāk (Speech).

When she appears as an individual goddess, she becomes the wife of Brahmā. The *Matsya-Purāṇa* tells the story of her creation by Brahmā. Brahmā became enamoured of his own daughter, and as she began to move round him in devotion, out of a keen desire to stare at her, a face sprang up in each direction, to enable Brahmā to look at her. This is how Brahmā got five faces. The myth of Brahmā's incest with his own daughter, however, owes its origin to the *R̥g-Veda*, where the Vedic Prajāpati copulates with his daughter Uṣas.

Later, Sarasvatī is consorted with Viṣṇu. These later legends are concerned with Kṛishṇa.

She appears as the wife of either Brahmā, Viṣṇu or Gaṇeśa. Sometimes she appears alone.



When she appears with any of the gods mentioned above, she stands on their left holding a *viñā*. When she is alone, she is usually seated. She is now worshipped as the Goddess of Speech and Learning.

Since she is primarily associated with *Brahmā*, her vehicle is the swan (*hamsa*). In popular mind, she is now associated with the peacock. The texts do not mention her vehicle.

If she is four-handed she holds: book, rosary, lute (*viñā*) and lotus; or book, *akṣasūtra* (*Rudrākṣa mālā*), lotus, with one hand in the teaching attitude (*vyākhyāna mudrā*); or book, rosary, lute and vase; or *sudandā* (sacred staff), rosary, book, with one hand in the *kāṭaka mudrā* (fingers forming a ring); or one hand in the boon-giving attitude with rosary, lotus and book in the other hands; or rosary, noose, goad, and one hand in the protection attitude.

If she is eight-handed she carries in them: bow, mace, noose, lute, wheel, conch, wooden pestle and goad.

If she has ten hands she holds: wheel, conch, skull-cup, noose, battle-axe, vessel of ambrosia, *Veda*, rosary, *Vidyā* (emblem of knowledge) and lotus.

## 2. PĀRVATĪ

*Pārvatī* has twenty-four names. The names *Haimavatī*, *Pārvatī*, *Āryā*, *Dāksāyānī*, *Satī*, are indicative of her origin; the names *Śivā*, *Bhavanī*, *Rudrānī*, *Mṛdānī*, tell us that she is the consort of *Śiva*. Her aggressive forms like *Kātyāyānī*, *Durgā*, *Chandikā*, *Ambikā*, became necessary to destroy evil. In the *Amarakośa*, *Mahishamardini* is a form of *Pārvatī*.

It is not customary to erect separate temples for *Pārvatī*. Usually she appears in the company of *Śiva*. If she is alone, she may hold a javelin (*śūla*) and mirror in her two hands. If she is four-handed, two of her hands exhibit the protection and boon-giving attitudes and two carry a javelin (*śūla*) and a chisel (*ṭaṅka*).

## 3. CHĀMUṆḌĀ

The *Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa* tells the story of the origin of *Chāmuṇḍā*. Once the demon brothers *Śumbha* and *Nisumbha* became very powerful and dispossessed the gods; whereupon they invoked the Supreme Goddess. From the latter sprang the goddess *Kauśikī* who looked dazzlingly

beautiful. When the two demon brothers heard of the beauty of *Kauśikī*, they desired to possess her. *Śumbha* asked her to become his wife. She replied that anyone who wished to make her his wife would have to conquer her in battle. She destroyed a servant of *Śumbha*. Then *Chanda* and *Munda* were sent to fight and seize her. Furious, *Kauśikī* created the goddess *Chāmuṇḍā*, 'black and scowling, with drawn sword and lasso, holding a mace (*khaṭvāṅga*), wearing a necklace of skulls, clothed in a tiger-skin, mouth hideously distorted and the tongue protruding out.' She plucked off the heads of *Chanda* and *Munda*.

Her general characteristics are as follows: she should be like a skeleton in appearance—flesh dried up, bones showing through the skin, eyes sunken and abdomen contracted. Her hair should be standing on end with snakes peeping out of them. She should be depicted as laughing horribly, with the teeth prominent and the tongue protruding. She should wear a necklace of skulls and bones. She should be dressed in a tiger's skin and have a corpse and an owl as her vehicles.

## 4. MAHISHAMARDINI (Pls. 104-109)

The *Amarakośa* regards her as a form of *Pārvatī*. In the *Mahābhārata* and the *Harivaṃśa*, she is referred to as the sister of *Kṛishṇa* (an incarnation of *Vishṇu*) and the daughter of *Yashoda*. In the *Matsya-Purāṇa*, she is described as being born out of the union of three goddesses, while as the *Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa* says, she is made up of the essence of all the gods.

The *Mahābhārata*, the *Harivaṃśa* and the *Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa* all tell us that she is very fond of wine, flesh and of *mūṇḍamālā* (garland of heads), *vyāghracharma* (tiger-skin) and *khaṭvāṅga* (mace). Obviously, she was originally a non-Aryan deity.

When she was absorbed into the Aryan pantheon, she was assigned the function of destroying demons like *Mahiṣa*, *Chanda*, *Munda*, *Śumbha*, *Nisumbha*, etc.

*Mahishamardini* occupies an important place in the Hindu pantheon. She either appears alone or in company in temples. In the *Pañchayatana* (temples of five gods grouped together) her temple is built in the centre, while in other directions (south-east, south-west, north-east, north-west) smaller temples are erected to *Śankara*, *Gaṇeśa*, *Sūrya* and *Vishṇu*.



The texts refer to her as Durgā, Caṇḍī, Mahishamardini, Mahishāsūramardini, Kātyāyāni, etc. If she is eight-handed, she holds in them javelin, sword, arrow, wheel, noose, shield, bow and conch. If she has four hands, two carry a wheel and a conch, while two are in the protection and boon-giving attitudes or one of the four hands may exhibit the kaṭaka mūdra instead of the boon-giving mūdrā.

If she is ten-handed, she holds in them: spear (śakti), arrow, javelin, sword, wheel, moon (chandrāmbika), shield, skull-cup, javelin and wheel.

If she is twenty-handed she holds: spear, mudgara (a kind of club), javelin (śūla), thunderbolt, sword, conch, arrow, goad, javelin, wheel, noose, drum, flag, bow, abhaya and tarjani mūdrās, mirror, bell, shield and hair of rākṣasa. If she has eighteen hands, she does not carry the javelin or drum or arrow.

### 5. MAHĀLAKSHMI

Mahālakshmi is associated both with Viṣṇu and Śiva. In her four hands she holds a mahāluṅga (a fruit which resembles a lemon), mace, shield and a bowl of leaves. She may also carry a lotus, dindima (big drum), and have one hand in the protection attitude, or may carry a vase, mace, shield and śrifala (coconut).

### 6. BHŪ

Bhū never appears alone in sculptures. When she appears in the company of Viṣṇu, the latter is always accompanied either by Śrī or by Lakshmi. She is the junior consort of Viṣṇu; his senior consort is either Lakshmi or Śrī.

When she is shown to have two hands, she carries in one a lotus, is shown seated or standing and wears a karaṇḍa mukuṭa. When she is shown with four hands, she holds in them a bowl of jewels, a bowl of corn, a bowl of medicine and a lotus.

#### 7. ŚRĪ OR LAKSHMI (Pl. 110)

Śrī or Lakshmi is the goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. She appears either alone or with Viṣṇu. If Viṣṇu is accompanied by Bhū or Sarasvatī, she inevitably keeps him company and is then called Śrī. When she appears alone with Viṣṇu, she is called Lakshmi.

When she appears by herself she may be called

either Śrī or Lakshmi. In the former form she appears more frequently. Independent sculptures of Lakshmi are rare. Lakshmi is the senior wife of Viṣṇu. It is difficult to understand why sculptures of Lakshmi and Śrī should be differently portrayed though they are one.

#### SRI

In her two-handed representations, she holds a śrifala and lotus. She is accompanied by two female chaurī-bearers (fly-whisk attendants) and two or four elephants carrying ghaṭas (pitchers).

#### LAKSHMI

If she is eight-handed, she holds in them: bow, mace, arrow, lotus, wheel, conch, wooden pestle, and goad.

If she is four-handed she holds: wheel, conch, lotus, and mace; or mahāluṅga (a lemon-like fruit), lotus, lotus and vessel of nectar; or lotus, bilwa fruit (wood-apple), conch and vessel of ambrosia.

If she is two-handed she holds: conch and lotus. Vidyādhara accompany her on two sides as also Rājāśrī, Svargalakshmi, Brāhmī, Lakshmi and Jayalakshmi.

#### LAKSHMI WITH VIṢṆU (Pls. 111-113)

If Lakshmi is two-handed she holds: lotus and śrifala or lotuses in both. She sits on the left lap of Viṣṇu or on the serpent Ananta or on the Eagle.

### THE SAPTA-MĀTRIKAS (Pls. 114-119)

The legend of the seven Divine Mothers is interesting. The account is an allegory which is aimed to emphasize a point, to draw a moral. In this world of men, Knowledge and Ignorance continuously battle for dominance. In this story Andhakāśura is the symbol of Ignorance and Śiva the symbol of Wisdom. In this struggle, Wisdom ultimately triumphs over the Darkness of Ignorance.

Andhakāśura, the grandson of Hiranyakāśipu, had become very powerful by obtaining several boons from Brahmā. He then began to harass the gods, who sought redress from Śiva. In the meanwhile, the king of the demons himself appeared before Mount Kailasa to carry away Pārvatī, the consort of Śiva. A fight ensued. A demon named Nila took the form of an elephant



to kill Śiva. But Śiva's son Virabhadra took the form of a lion and killed him, presenting its skin to his father. Vishṇu and the other gods joined the battle against Andhakāśura, but soon had to flee. Enraged, Śiva shot the demon-king with an arrow. As the demon began to bleed profusely, every drop as it touched the earth assumed the form of another Andhakāśura. Śiva thrust his trident through the body of the original Andhakāśura while Vishṇu with his wheel destroyed all the secondary Andhakāśuras. To drink the demon's blood and thus prevent it from falling on the earth, Śiva created a Śakti called Yogeśvari. Brahmā, Vishṇu and the other gods followed suit and created Brahmāṇī, Māheśvari, Kaumārī, Vaiṣṇavī, Vārāhī, Indrāṇī, and Chāmūḍā, the female counterparts of Brahmā, Maheśvara, Kumāra, Vishṇu, Varāha, Indra and Yama. They carry the same weapons and ride the same mounts as the male gods.

The *Varāha-Purāṇa* mentions eight Mātṛikas and says that they represent eight mental qualities which are morally bad:

1. Yogeśvari — *Kāma* or desire
2. Māheśvari — *Krodha* or anger
3. Vaiṣṇavī — *Lobha* or covetousness
4. Brahmāṇī — *Mada* or pride
5. Kaumārī — *Moha* or illusion
6. Indrāṇī — *Matsarya* or fault-finding
7. Chāmūḍā — *Paśunya* or tale-bearing
8. Vārāhī — *Asuyā* or envy

The assistance of the Seven Mothers stopped the multiplication of Andhakāśuras. When, however, the demon-king was about to be killed, he praised Śiva and obtained grace.

Afterwards, the destructive qualities of the Divine Mothers were withdrawn by Śiva, whereupon the Divine Mothers became worthy of prayer.

The entire episode is symbolic of the struggle between spiritual wisdom represented by Śiva and Ignorance symbolised by Andhakāśura. In the struggle between these two forces, the forces of Ignorance are strengthened by evil qualities like desire, anger, covetousness, etc., possessed by men. Unless these are completely brought under restraint, Wisdom can never triumph over the Darkness of Ignorance which leads men away from the Ultimate Truth.

## RIVER GODDESSES (Pls. 120-125)

In India, rivers are given a divine status. The civilization of India was nurtured in the Gangā-Jumna doab. This has been the heart of ancient India. The two rivers Gangā and Jumna (Yamunā) have, therefore, been worshipped since ancient times. The Gangādhara legend traces the origin of the river Ganges to Heaven. Gangā had to be persuaded to descend to the earth to enable the ancestors of king Bhagiratha to ascend to heaven (see Gangādhara-Śiva, p. 43). The Ganges is known for her purity and divinity. The Hindus believe that a bath in her holy water cleanses one of all one's sins. The river Jumna is known for her devotion. In Hindu legend, she is the sister of Yama, the first of the mortals and the king of the Dead. The river Sarasvatī was worshipped in early times, when the Aryans lived in the Punjab by the side of the river. At the time it flowed broad and strong. It changed its course in later ages and gradually disappeared in the deserts of Rajasthan.

These three rivers have been worshipped for a long time. During the reign of the Imperial Guptas (4th-6th centuries A.D.), architects began to carve anthropomorphic figures of Gangā and Jumna (Yamunā) on two sides of the shrine door. This was very symbolic. Gangā is known for her purity and Jumna for her devotion. The devotee who enters the sanctum sanctorum, enters the divine presence. But only the pure and the devoted have entrance here. This is the significance of their presence. The Gupta sculptor who thought of this idea must have been very imaginative. At a later period, it became a common practice to represent the two river goddesses on the two sides of the shrine door both in the north and the south.

At Ellora, in the Lankeśvara shrine, these two appear on either side of the shrine entrance (Pl. 122). In the courtyard of Kailasa is a shrine of the three river goddesses, Gangā, Jumna and Sarasvatī (Pls. 121-125). This shrine was carved after the Rashtrakuta king Indra had conquered Kanauj, the capital of Aryavarta, in A.D. 800. He succeeded in reaching Prayag (modern Allahabad), where the three rivers are supposed to meet. This shrine immortalised his great feat.

## THE HINDU TRIAD

COGNIZANCE	BRAHMA	VISHNU	SIVA
<i>Symbols</i>	Rotary, vase, ladle, book, Antelope skin on shoulder	Mace, lotus, conch, wheel	Trident, discus, battle-axe, club, serpent girdle, serpent necklace
<i>Vehicle</i>	Goose, Swan	Eagle	Bull
<i>Asana</i>	Padmasana	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Two, four or more
<i>Hand pose</i>	—	—	—
<i>Consort</i>	Savitri or Sarasvati	Śrī & Lakṣmī	Umā or Pārvatī
<i>Face</i>	Four	One	One or three
<i>Hair-dress</i>	Matted hair	Kirtia crown (Fez-type crown worn by Vishnu)	Matted hair



## FORMS OF BRAHMA

	PRAJAPATI	LOKAPALA BRAHMA	VISHVAKARMA	KAMALASANA	PITAMARA
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Faces</i>	Four	—	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	—	—	—	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	Swan (hamsa)	—	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Boon-giving attitude, sacrificial ladle, vase & ladle (AC)	Rosary, book, lotus & vase	Akṣasūtra, book, vase & srut (ladle) (RP & RM)	Akṣasūtra, srut, book & vase (RP & RM)	Akṣasūtra, book, ladle (srut) & vase (RP & RM)
<i>Misc.</i>	Black deer-skin, Sarasvatī on right, Sāvitrī on left & rishi (AC)	Savitrī on left lap, Sāvitrī carrying rosary	Four-faced Sāvitrī (VID)	—	—

## Variations

I—4-handed—rosary, ladle, vase, pot of ghee; Sāvitrī on right & Sarasvatī on left (AGP)

II—Seated or standing on lotus. 4-handed—rosary & grass, srut & srut (sacrificial spoons), vase & grass & Ayaśhālī & Kusā; or boon-giving and protection mudrās, vase & rosary, srut & srut, Sarasvatī & Sāvitrī (AB)

III—White; chariot of seven swans, 4-handed—two in dhyanā mudrā, rosary & vase, 4 faces (VID)

IV—Book, akṣasūtra, srut and kalasa (RP & RM)

NOTE: The abbreviations in brackets in the following Tables refer to the different ancient texts, a list of which is given on page 74.

## SADHARANA SIVA (USUAL FORMS)

(Pls. 126-130)

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Eight	Four	Two	Four	Two
<i>Faces</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	—	—	Two	Three	Three	Three
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Trident, drum, boon-giving and rosary (AC)	<i>R.h.</i> —rosary, spear (sakti), staff (danda) & javelin or trident (śūla) <i>L.h.</i> —ritual wand (khatavāṇa) skull-cup, boon-giving & cobra Elephant-skin & moon-crescent (AC)	Boon-giving, protection, javelin or trident (śūla), noose Karanda crown (AB)	Javelin or trident (śūla) & bow (BS)	Protection, boon-giving, deer & drum. Accompanied by Parvati (MS)	Trident & rosary (VID)

## URDHAVA-LINGA SIVA (SIVA WITH ERECT PHALLUS)

(Pl. 131)

<i>Hands</i>	Two
<i>Faces</i>	One
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Serpent & battle-axe
<i>Misc.</i>	Stands on dwarf Apasmāra-purusha



# SIVA-CHANDRASEKHARA-MURTIS

## BENIGN FORMS IN STANDING POSTURE

	KEVALA-MURTI	UMA-SARTTA-MURTI (Pl. 132)	ALINGANA-MURTI (Pl. 135-138)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —protection, and chisel <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving, black deer & chisel held in hands which are in kartari-hasta pose.	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Stands erect in samabhangas. Jata crown shows crescent moon. Right front hand may be held in the sitohakarua, kataka hasta or katiavalambita pose <i>Left ear</i> ornament should be of pearls, conch- shell or lotus <i>Right ear</i> ornament of makara, lion-face or leaf (SR)	Devil by side, either on same pedestal or another. Chandrasekhara as described in Kevala-murti. Uma holds a lotus in one hand, the other hanging by her side (AB & SR)	In this aspect, Siva embraces his consort Uma with one of his left hands. This arm rests just below her breast, or on the left arm of Uma. Uma holds in her right hand a red lotus <i>OR</i> Uma may embrace Siva with her right hand and carry a flower in her left <i>OR</i> Siva and Uma may embrace each other, one with the left and the other with the right hand
		PASUPATA-MURTI	BAUDRAPASUPATI-MURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four
<i>Faces</i>	—	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —protection and trident <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving & rosary	Trident held head downward in one hand, skull-cup in another <i>OR</i> front two hands hold trident in horizontal position, while the other two hands hold a chisel and sword	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Standing erect or sitting and sometimes holds skull-cup in place of rosary	—	—

## SIVA—ASANA-MURTIS

## BENIGN FORMS OF SIVA IN SITTING POSTURE

	SUKHASANA-MURTI	UMĀ-SAMĪTA-MURTI (Pls. 132-134)	SOMASKANDA-MURTI	UMĀ-MAHESVARA-MURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	—	—	Two or four
<i>Feet</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —protection and battle-axe <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving or śaṅkhakara (tips of four fingers touch the tip of the thumb to form a semi-circle) and deer (mṛiga)	Umā has two arms <i>R.h.</i> —holds a lotus <i>L.h.</i> —rests straight on the seat or in the śaṅkhakara pose or in boon-giving attitude	—	<i>R.h.</i> of Śiva—blue lotus <i>L.h.</i> of Śiva—on left shoulder of Umā Or <i>R.h.</i> —trident & mālakūṭa <i>L.h.</i> —snake & one on left shoulder of Umā
<i>Misc.</i>	Seated erect upon a bhadrāpitha as on a stool. Right leg pendant. Left leg bent to rest upon the seat. <i>Right ear</i> —makara or lion ornament <i>Left ear</i> —leaf-ornament Devi or Skanda must NOT accompany Śiva in this form (PK)	Umā sits on the same pedestal as Śiva to his left, facing him, with left leg pendant Wears a karaṇḍa crown (AB) Pārvatī on left; Indra, Viśnu, Brahmā, Bhṛngi, Nārada, Bhairava, Gaṇeśa, Skanda, Vināyaka behind (ST)	Siva, Umā with their son Skanda. Latter may be standing, sitting on the pedestal or on the lap of Umā or dancing. (UK) If child Skanda is standing, he carries a lotus in the right hand, while the left is kept hanging, or both hands may hold lotus, or left hand held in boon-giving attitude and right hand in śaṅkhakara pose carrying a book. Child Skanda wears no clothes (SR) Dancing Skanda carries a fruit in the left hand, while the right is in śūcī pose (SR)	Siva & Umā sit embracing each other. Umā should have full breasts & hips. She should embrace Śiva with the right hand & carry a mirror or lotus in the left In this group, there may be Śiva's Bull, Gaṇeśa, Kumāra & Bhṛngi dancing Uma may sit on the lap of Śiva

## SIVA—MAHESAMURTI\*

(Pl. 139)

<i>Hands</i>	Ten
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two in boon-giving and protection poses <i>Four r.h.</i> —dāra, battle-axe, thunderbolt and sword <i>Four l. h.</i> —shield, goad, noose and bell Crystal clear
<i>Colour</i>	Five heads; faces of only four visible; each face has three eyes; clothed in white garments and wears a white sacred thread (yajñopavīta); symbolizes creation, protection and destruction
<i>Misc.</i>	Sakti on one side. She has three eyes and four arms Wears a karaṇḍa crown; <i>four hands</i> ; two in boon-giving and protection poses, while two hold blue lotus and rosary

\*Śiva as the supreme deity responsible for creation, preservation and destruction of the universe.



# SIVA—NRIITAMURTIS

SIVA-NATARAJA

(Pls. 76-79)

## Objects in hand

From *L.h.*—gajahasta attitude  
Back *L.h.*—carries fire (Agni) either in a vessel or upon the palm. The fire should be at the end, middle or the root of the middle finger  
Front *R.h.*—in protection attitude. Top of the middle finger should touch the hikkā-sūtra (life-line). On the forearm of this hand should be

Sarpa (serpent)

Back *R.h.*—drum (damru)

## Position of legs

*Right leg*—bent and placed upon back of Apasamāra-purusa. Knee should reach nabhisūtra (navel-band)

*Left leg*—lifted up, somewhat turned towards the right leg and kept across it

Jatā crown adorned with flower garlands, snake, skull, ornaments, crescent moon, etc.

Should have his head on the right side of Śiva. His left leg on left side of Śiva should hold a snake

Pārvatī (Not in bronzes)

Uttara-Karikāgana

Jatās should be spread around. These may vary from 5 to 30

Upper half is female while lower half is running water, in Śiva's jatās on right

Located in Śiva's jatās on left

*R.E.*—crocodile-earrings (makara-krodaka)

*L.E.*—leaf-earring (patra-kuṇḍala)

On right side of Natarāja (Not in bronzes)

*Bhṛingi* or *Bhadrukāli*

## Position of hands

*R.h.*—one right hand should be near the navel in kataka-hasta pose. One holds a drum, another lower down supports the lower garment of Śiva

*L.h.*—one left hand raised in the tripataka pose (palm outwards, fingers together with third finger bent into the palm), another rests on thigh in the ardhachandra pose (in which the thumb and the other fingers are held so as to resemble a bow or crescent moon)

*L.h.*—in gajahasta pose, (upper arm lifted up as high as the shoulder horizontally and the forearm held at right angles to the upper arm and facing upwards) i.e., hand stretched right across the chest towards the other shoulder

*R.h.*—in pravartita pose (uplifted arm)

One left arm is lifted up in the patākā pose (held like a flag, open palm facing outwards, fingers closed) and the other holds a skull-cup. One right hand holds a drum while the other is kept in the attitude of protection

One left arm is held in the gajahasta pose. The lower-most right hand is held in the chatura pose (palm outwards and hollowed into semi-circle). Another right hand is held in the archita pose (with the palm open and facing the visitor)

One hand must be in the patākā pose (held like a flag, palm outwards)

The left leg is in the kuttitām pose (with the leg bent at the knee, and the toes touching the earth)

Left leg stamped vehemently on the ground, the right leg lifted high up

One of the legs is lifted as if going to mark the forehead with its toe with a tilaka mark. This position of the legs looks like the tail of a scorpion and is called the vrischika pose

Kuttitām—one leg rests firmly on the ground and the other, resting upon the toe, strikes the ground with the heel

Two legs kept a little apart from each other in the svastika-pasrita pose

Left leg stamped vehemently on the ground, the right leg lifted high up

## Position of legs

One of the legs is lifted as if going to mark the forehead with its toe with a tilaka mark. This position of the legs looks like the tail of a scorpion and is called the vrischika pose

The left leg is in the kuttitām pose (with the leg bent at the knee, and the toes touching the earth)

Left leg stamped vehemently on the ground, the right leg lifted high up

SIVA—DAKSHINA-MURTIS  
SIVA AS THE GREAT TEACHER  
(Seated Poses)

	VYAKHYANA-DAKSHINA-MURTI	YOGA-DAKSHINA-MURTI (Three types)	VINADHARA-DAKSHINA-MURTI	
<i>Seat</i>	Lotus seat	(1)	(2)	(3)
<i>Attire</i>	Right leg pendant, resting on dwarf Apasmārapurusha, on lotus pedestal or on the floor	Seated, cross-legged (padmāsana)	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Four	—	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<p><i>Front R.h.</i>—in jñāna mudrā</p> <p><i>Front L.h.</i>—in boon-giving or stretched straight in the danda pose, the elbow resting upon the left knee</p> <p><i>Back R.h.</i>—rosary</p> <p><i>Back L.h.</i>—fire or snake or lotus</p>	<p><i>Front R.h.</i>—near the chest in yoga-mudrā</p> <p><i>Front L.h.</i>—upon lap in yogic posture</p> <p><i>Back R.h.</i>—rosary</p> <p><i>Back L.h.</i>—lotus</p>	<p><i>Front L.h.</i>—stretched to rest on elbow on the knee of the bent left leg. Other hands identical with the first type</p>	<p>Front right and left hands held in kataka pose, the former with its palm facing below and the latter facing above. The vīṇā should be held at the top by the left hand and by the right hand at the lower end; the vīṇā should rest on the right thigh. The lower right hand should be manipulating the strings of the vīṇā</p>
<i>Position of legs</i>	Seated in sukhāsana, right leg pendant	—	Left leg bent in utkūṭāsana. Left leg and left side of the body held together by a yogapattā	Legs bent and crossed in a nearly vertical position
<i>Crown</i>	Jatā with flowers, serpent on left, skull-cup and moon crescent on right, Gaṅgā in middle of jatā crown	—	Right leg is pendant	The vīṇā may not be shown
<i>Companions</i>	Siva as teacher-god has 4 to 7 companions. These are tishis. They wear jatā crowns	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Gaze fixed on tip of nose. A few jatās on shoulder. A number of rishtis adore him	—	—



## SIVA—ANUGRAHA-MURTIS

## SIVA AS GRANTING BOONS TO DEVOTEES

CHANDESANUGRAHA-MURTI  
(Page 38)

Siva seated with Pārvatī as in the Uṇḍi-sahita-mūrti (p. 63). Siva's face is turned a little to the left. His right hand is in boon-giving pose, while his left is placed on head of Chandesha. Siva holds a garland in one right hand and ties it round the neck of Chandesha with his left.

Chandesha stands on lotus pedestal in front of Siva, or sits before him. His hands are folded in the añjali pose.

VIṢṆUVANUGRAHA-MURTI  
(Page 38)

Siva has three eyes, four arms and is pacific in appearance. Right leg pendant, while the left is bent and rests on the seat.  
R.h.—chisel and wheel  
L.h.—in boon-giving pose and black deer  
Pārvatī seated on left of Siva. Brahmā standing on right.

Viṣṇu stands with hands folded in añjali mudrā.

VIḢṢṆESVARANUGRAHA-MURTI  
(Page 39)

Siva has three eyes, four arms and wears a jāṭā crown. Two hands carry a battle-axe and deer. One right hand is in protection attitude and placed on the head of Viḡṇesvara and one left hand is in boon-giving attitude. Siva seated with Pārvatī with his left leg pendant.

Pārvatī is seated on left of her consort, with her left leg pendant. In her right hand she carries a blue lotus, while her left is in the boon-giving attitude.

Viḡṇesvara stands reverently with two of his hands folded in the añjali pose, while two carry a noose and goad.

KIRITĀRJUNA-MURTI  
(Page 39)

Siva as Kirāṭa (hunter) has three eyes, four arms and a jāṭā crown. He stands erect carrying a bow, arrow, battle-axe and deer. On his left is Pārvatī.  
On the right of Siva stands Arjuna. He has one face, four eyes and his two hands are held in the añjali pose. He wears a jāṭā crown.

## SIVA—DIFFERENT FORMS

	GANGADHARA-MURTI (Page 43)	ABDHANARISVARA (Page 43)	HARIDARA (Page 44)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Two, three or four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —protection pose & battle-axe <i>L.h.</i> —kataka pose & mriga (deer)	<i>If four</i> : <i>R.h.</i> of Siva—protection attitude, battle-axe or trident Or boon-giving & <i>sūla</i> Or chisel & protection pose Or one hand on bull & other in protection pose Or <i>sūla</i> & rosary <i>If two</i> : one in boon-giving pose and other carries a skull-cup <i>L.h.</i> (of Umā)—one bent to rest on bull of Siva Other in kataka pose or holds blue lotus Or hangs below <i>If three-handed</i> : only one on left side. This may hold either a mirror, flower or parrot. The parrot may perch upon the wrist of Pārvatī	<i>L.h. (Vishnu)</i> —one carries the wheel, conch or mace. The other is in kataka pose near the thigh <i>R.h. (Siva)</i> —boon-giving attitude, trident or sword or drum or rosary or battle-axe or skull-cup
<i>Misc.</i>	Siva stands with right leg placed vertically on earth, with the left slightly bent. His front right hand touches the chin of Umā, whom he embraces with the left front arm. Siva's back right hand, which holds the battle-axe, touches the jatā where Ganga is placed. His back left hand carries a mriga (deer)  Umā has her right leg slightly bent, while the left is straight. She carries a flower in the left hand, while her right hangs loose by the side	Half-male, half-female form of Siva. Right half is Siva & left half is Pārvatī <i>Male-half (Siva)</i> —jatā-crown. In right ear, earring of serpent or mukara. Half-eye on forehead. Broad male chest. Elephant-skin. Foot on lotus. Sacred thread of serpent. Urdhvalinga (vertical phallus), serpent-belt, etc. <i>Female-half (Pārvatī)</i> —kanakya crown. Tilaka mark on forehead. Valika (circular) earring in left ear. Round, well-developed breast. Diamond necklaces. Silken cloth reaching the ankles. Left leg bent slightly. Pacific appearance	Vishnu-half wears kirita crown and mukara earrings. Siva-half wears jatā crown with moon crescent. Serpent earrings in right ear. Siva's vehicle Nandi (Bull) is sculptured on the right & Vishnu's vehicle Garuda (Eagle) on the left  Sometimes, Siva & Vishnu are also accompanied by their consorts Pārvatī & Lakshmi  The two legs of Harihara should be straight without bends

Bhagiratha is seen on left with a number of  
rishis (sages)



## SIVA—DIFFERENT FORMS (contd.)

Hands	KALYANABHISIDHARA-MURTI	VISHABHHA-VAHANA-MURTI	VISHAPAHARANA-MURTI
	(Page 44)	(Page 44)	(Page 45)
	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<p>Front right hand holds hand of the bride Pārvatī. Front left in boon-giving pose. Back right holds battle-axe and back left holds mriga (deer) (AB)</p> <p>Or of the four hands, two may be in protection and boon-giving poses &amp; two may hold resary &amp; vase (UK)</p> <p>Or right hand of Pārvatī, battle-axe, deer &amp; boon-giving pose (PK)</p>	<p>R.h.—carries vakra-daudāyudha (a crooked stick). Another should carry a chisel (tanka) or battle-axe</p> <p>L.h.—one left arm bent and its wrist resting on bull's head; the hand hangs fully open while the other left hand carries a mriga (deer)</p>	<p>In two hands he holds a battle-axe and deer. In one he holds the cup of poison. His fourth hand is in the boon-giving pose</p>
<i>Misc.</i>	<p>Siva stands erect or slightly inclined on the left or right leg. He should be in tribhūga (body bent at three places). He should be very young and beautiful. Pārvatī should stand on his left, with her right arm stretched, to receive the hand of Śiva. In her left she holds a blue lotus. Her head should be slightly bent down in shyness. She must be shown as a well-developed young maiden, with two eyes and two arms</p> <p>In front of Śiva, Brahmā making offerings to Fire. In front of Brahmā a Kūṇḍa (sacrificial pit) with fire. North of this Kūṇḍa should be Viṣṇu, standing carrying a wheel, a conch and holding a golden pot in his two front hands</p> <p>Śeṭ &amp; Bhū, behind Pārvatī, stand touching her waist, indicative of handing her over to Śiva</p> <p>In the background are seen Yakṣas (semi-divine beings), ṛṣhis (sages), Astadikpālas (Guardians of the Quarters), Gandhārvas (semi-divine beings), Mātṛikas (the Seven Divine Mothers), etc.</p>	<p>Siva stands with right leg firmly planted on the ground, with the left slightly bent. He wears a jata crown or may have loose jata</p> <p>Pārvatī stands either on his left or right, reclined on the right leg. Her right arm is bent and carries a lotus. The left hangs freely</p> <p>The viśabha (bull) stands behind Śiva. Generally absent in metal icons</p>	<p>Siva decked with ornaments. Three eyes</p> <p>Pārvatī on left of Siva embracing him with her right arm and looking distressed. She has two eyes, two arms. She stands in tribhūga, with her right leg straight &amp; left slightly bent</p> <p>Siva may hold a trident in one right hand and a beaked vessel (gokarna) containing poison. One left hand may hold a skull-cup. The fourth arm embraces Pārvatī</p>

## SIVA—DIFFERENT FORMS (Contd.)

	KANKALA-MURTI (Page 40)	MAHAKALA	MAHESVARA	LAKULISA	REDIRA
<i>Hands</i>	Two or five	Four	Four or ten	Two	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Prahara, in mouth of deer, staff (pichchadauda) & big drum	Sword, munda (human head), śila & shield	Ten hands: rosary, trident, shield, staff, lotus, bow, mahalinga, mirror, vase & shield	Staff and mahalinga	Protection pose, battle-axe, deer & boon-giving pose
<i>Colour</i>	White	Black	—	—	—
<i>Asana</i>	—	Simhāsana	—	Padmasana	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Jatā crown, Moon crescent in jatā & cobra, Dagger in belt on left side Accompanied by rubis, Gandharvas, Siddhas, Vidyadharas, ladies carrying fly-whisks and umbrellas	Wears a black coat. Embracing Mahākālī. Drinking liquor from the Brahmāśila (the huge shell from which Brahmā was born) Accompanied by Kālī & Maṭyū (Death)	Garland of skulls, jatā, crescent of moon, sacred thread of Vasuki (serpent)  Five heads, four pacific, one terrible	—	Three eyes. White or black garments
<i>Variations</i>	I—Two hands—deer & dauda (staff) II—Four hands—kankālā (bone) & damaru (drum) in two hands. Two seem to carry a corpse	—	I—Four-handed: kuthāra (axe), deer, protection & boon-giving poses, Five heads, tiger-skin. Three eyes II—Ten-handed: protection pose, śila, battle-axe, thunder-bolt, sword, shield, goad, noose, bell, boon-giving pose 5 heads, 12 eyes, 4 noses Accompanied by Śakti with 4 hands—boon-giving, lotus, necklace & protection. Karaṇḍa crown, 3 eyes	—	I—Two-handed: bow and arrow, 3 eyes. Jatā crown



## SIVA—DIFFERENT FORMS (Contd.)

	ACHORA-MURTI	SADASTVA-MURTI	MAHASADASTVA-MURTI	MAHESAMURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Eight	Ten	Fifty	Ten
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sūla, drum, noose, skull-cup, staff, bow, arrow and sword	<i>R.h.</i> —śakti (spear), sūla, ritual wand, protection and prasāda (?) <i>L.h.</i> —Bhujāṅga (snake), rosary, drum, blue lotus and mahālinga fruit	Boon-giving & protection poses Rest not mentioned	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving, sūla, battle-axe, thunderbolt and sword <i>L.h.</i> —protection pose, shield, goad, noose and bell
<i>Colour</i>	—	White	—	—
<i>Āsana</i>	—	Padmāsana	—	—
<i>Faces</i>	—	—	—	Five—out of which four should be visible
<i>Misc.</i>	Blue neck, black complexion, should be naked or clad in elephant-skin and lion-skin. Ornaments of snakes and scorpions. Terrific face	Five faces. Jātā crowns	Twenty-five faces which stand for twenty-five principles of philosophy. Heads adorned by jātā crowns	Decked in ornaments. Accompanied by śakti, with 3 eyes and 4 arms. Wears a karaṇḍa crown. Carries a blue lotus and rosary and two in protection & boon-giving poses. Stands on left of Maheśa

**I—Aghastava-mūrti : 3 eyes, 8 arms**  
Two hands carry a trident horizontally.  
Other hands hold a vetala (corpse), sword, drum, skull-cup and sword or bell

**II—32 arms : R.h.**—protection pose, sword, sūla, wheel, drum, bone, arrow, mace, lotus, skull-cup, Jāna mudra, kuṇḍa (sacrificial pit), goad, rosary, khatvāṅga and battle-axe  
*L.h.*—boon-giving, kavacha (shield), chisel, noose, club, snake, fire, deer, bell, bow, on waist, garmis, water lily, pitcher, wooden pestle and book

## Variations

## SIVA—AGGRESSIVE FORMS

	ANDHAKASURAMARDANA (Page 43)	GAJABAMARDANA (Page 41)	TRIPURANTAKA (Page 41)
<i>Hands</i>	Eight	Four, eight or ten	Two to eight
<i>Symbols in hands</i>	Trident in two hands, drum or bell, sword, skull-cup, two hold elephant skin, one in tarjani pose	<i>If four:</i> R.h.—noose, elephant-tusk L.h.—elephant-tusk and elephant skin <i>If eight:</i> two hold elephant skin R.h.—trident, drum & noose L.h.—vismaya (surprise) pose, skull-cup & elephant-tusk	<i>If four:</i> R.h.—1) in simhakarna near navel holding bow string, 2) chisel (tanka) L.h.—1) Kartari hasta pose & 2) black deer
<i>Uarna</i>	Alidha	Alidha	Right leg of Siva a little in front Left leg, slightly bent, should be behind
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	Devil on left of Siva
<i>Misc.</i>	Goddess Yoge-vari seated, holding a cup for catching blood-drops of the demon Andhaka. In other hand, she carries a dagger. She has an emaciated body. Dakini above the head of Yoge-vari, half-human, half-bird. Right of Kâfi is Devi, seated on padmāsana	Siva should be decked in ornaments Left of Siva—standing Devil with Skanda in hands	
<i>Variations</i>	—	I- <i>Eight-handed:</i> trident, sword, shield, elephant-tusk, skull-cup, shield, bell & elephant-skin II-R.h.—trident, sword, elephant-tusk & elephant-skin L.h.—skull-cup, shield, bell & elephant-skin on left. Or arrow, battle-axe, deer & bow Or in two hands bow & arrow. Parvati on left III- <i>Eight-armed:</i> R.h.—arrow, battle-axe, sword & thunderbolt, L.h.—two in vismaya (surprise) & katika poses. Remaining two carry bow & shield. Devil on left of Siva IV- <i>Ten-armed:</i> R.h.—arrow, wheel, club, chisel & thunderbolt L.h.—bow, conch & shield. Two in vismaya & stuchi poses V-Siva driving a chariot, Right leg slightly raised. Left placed in middle of the chariot. Brahmal as charioteer with stick in one hand & vase in another. Lotus-moose in one & water-vessel in another	I- <i>Sixteen-handed:</i> holds rosary, sword, javelin, staff, club, arrow, wheel, mace, ritual wand (khatvanga), serpent, skull-cup, shield, boon-giving, bow, bell & conch II- <i>Four-handed:</i> bow, chisel, deer & bow. Gauri on left. Or arrow, battle-axe, deer & bow Or in two hands bow & arrow. Parvati on left III- <i>Eight-armed:</i> R.h.—arrow, battle-axe, sword & thunderbolt, L.h.—two in vismaya (surprise) & katika poses. Remaining two carry bow & shield. Devil on left of Siva IV- <i>Ten-armed:</i> R.h.—arrow, wheel, club, chisel & thunderbolt L.h.—bow, conch & shield. Two in vismaya & stuchi poses V-Siva driving a chariot, Right leg slightly raised. Left placed in middle of the chariot. Brahmal as charioteer with stick in one hand & vase in another. Lotus-moose in one & water-vessel in another



# SIVA—AGGRESSIVE FORMS (contd.)

VARANASI-MURTI (Page 41)	BRAHMANISRA-CICHEDAKA-MURTI (Page 42)	KALARI-MURTI (Page 42)	KAMANTAKA-MURTI (Page 42)
—	Four	Four or eight	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i> Two uplifted wings, four animal legs with sharp claws, and an animal tail. Body above hips should be of a human being with face of a lion. Narasimha is shown in human form with hands folded (añjali pose)	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt & battle-axe <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup of Brahmā & śūla	<i>If 4-armed</i> — <i>R.h.</i> —śūla & battle-axe or boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —in śūchi & vimaya poses <i>If 8-armed</i> : two in śūchi & vimaya & two hold shield & noose	On lap in Yoga posture.

Or

32 arms: *R.h.*—thunderbolt, fiat (mushli), protection pose, wheel, śakti (spear), staff, goad, sword, ritual wand, battle-axe, bone, bow, wooden pestle & fire (agni)  
*L.h.*—noose, boon-giving pose, bow, arrow, flag, sword, snake, lotus, skull-cup, book, plough, club (mudgara) & one hand embraces Durgā

Misc.

Three eyes, Jala crown  
*Right Ear*—earring of leaf (Pāra kundala)  
*Left Ear*—earring of makara (Makara kundala)

Yama is two-handed. One hand carries a noose & with this and the other he makes the añjali mudra. Looks to Śiva for grace  
Śiva has a terrific look. Carries a snake & a rosary. One hand in patikā hasta (hand held banner-wise) & another in śūchi. Kāma sculptured as having fallen at the glance of Śiva  
Kāma holds in his hands flowery arrows and bow made of sugar-cane. Accompanied by his consort Rati. His other companions are Devabāga & Vasanti

Vardhana

(I)—Śiva, with his right leg kicks Yama. Left is placed on the ground. In his right hands Śiva holds śūla & battle-axe & in left hands—serpent-noose & śūchi pose  
(II)—Śiva rises from Linga which Mārkaṇḍeya worships. The latter sits near the Linga with flowers

## SIVA—PANCHABRAHMAS ISANADAYAH\*

	ACHORA	ISANA	TATPURUSHA	VAMADEVA	SADYOJATA
<i>Symbols</i>	Trident, battle-axe, sword, staff, ritual wand, skull-cup, shield, noose	Rosary, trident, skull-cup, protection pose	Rosary, mahalinga (fruit) yellow garment and yellow sacred thread	Sword, khetaka (shield)	Varada or Abhaya
<i>Hands</i>	? , Four or eight	?, or ten	Four or ?	Four or ?	Four
<i>Faces</i>	One or four	Five	Four	—	Four
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	—	Three	Three	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	Three eyes, serpent on ja (a), garland of heads, serpent earrings and necklace, garland of scorpions, crescent of moon, etc.	—	—	Red garment	—
<i>Variations</i>	I—Rosary, Veda, noose, goad, drum, ritual wand, javelin or trident, skull-cup. Three eyes, 4 heads II—Axe, goad, noose, javelin or trident, skull-cup, dhakka (large drum) rosary and shield. Three eyes & four heads	I—Ten hands: two in protection & boon-giving & rest like Aglora-murli. 5 heads II—Vidyā, boon-giving & protection poses & axe. 4 heads, 3 eyes	I—Veda, protection and boon-giving poses & axe. 4 heads, 3 eyes II—Vidyā, boon-giving & protection poses & axe. 4 heads, 3 eyes	I—Protection, battle-axe, rosary & boon-giving pose 4 heads, 3 eyes II—Boon-giving, rosary, protection & chisel 4 heads, 3 eyes	I—Protection pose, Veda, rosary & boon-giving pose 4 heads, 3 eyes II—Protection pose, Vidyā, rosary & boon-giving pose

\* Collectively, the five aspects of Siva. Individually, Achora, Isana, Tatpurusha, Vamadeva and Sadyojata.

## EKADASA RUDRAS\*

Hands	AJA	EKAPADA	AHURBHUDHYA	VIRUPAKSHA	REVATA	HARA		
Objects in hands	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen		
	<i>R.h.</i> —śūla, goad, skull-cup, drum, serpent, club, rosary & wheel. <i>L.h.</i> —one in tarjani; others carry mace, ritual wand, patīṣa (a sharp-edged iron rod), drum, club, boom-giving, bell, śakti (spear), battle-axe & vase.	<i>R.h.</i> —bow, bell, skull-cup, Kaumudi (half-moon), tarjani, bell, axe & wheel. <i>L.h.</i> —khatvāṅga (ritual wand) bow, wheel, drum, club, boom-giving, rosary & śūla.	<i>R.h.</i> —mace, wheel, sword, drum, club, śūla, goad, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —tomasa (iron club), patīra, kavacha (shield), skull-cup, tarjani, pitcher (ghatī), śakti (spear) & axe.	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, śūla, drum, goad, serpent, wheel, mace & rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —shield, ritual wand, śakti, axe, tarjani, pitcher, bell & skull-cup.	<i>R.h.</i> —bow, sword, śūla, mace, serpent, wheel, goad & rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —patīra, bow (?) shield, ritual wand, bell, tarjani, axe & pātra (bowl).	<i>R.h.</i> —club, drum, śūla, goad, mace, serpent, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —patīra, iron club (tomara), spear, axe, tarjani, pitcher, ritual wand and patīka (a plate).		
Hands	BAHURUPA	TRYAMBAKA	SURESVARA	JAYANTA	APARAJITA	MRTYUNJAYA	KIRANAKSHA	ŚRIKANTHA
Objects in hands	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Sixteen	Six	Four	Four
	<i>R.h.</i> —drum, wheel, serpent, śūla, goad, club, bow, śūla, Kaumudi (half-moon), rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —bell, skull-cup, ritual wand, tarjani, vase, bow, battle-axe, patīra.	<i>R.h.</i> —wheel, drum, śūla, goad, arrow, club, bow, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —mace, bowl, khatvāṅga, bow, tarjani, pitcher, battle-axe and patīra.	<i>R.h.</i> —drum, wheel, śūla, goad, arrow, club, bow, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —lotus, battle-axe, bell, patīra, khatvāṅga, bow, bowl, tarjani, pitcher, battle-axe and patīra.	<i>R.h.</i> —goad, wheel, club, śūla, drum, serpent, arrow & rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —mace, ritual wand, battle-axe, skull-cup, spear, tarjani, bow & vase.	<i>R.h.</i> —iron club, sword, goad, śūla, serpent, wheel, drum, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —spear, mace, shield, bow, tarjani, patīra, lotus & bell.	<i>R.h.</i> —trident & rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup & vase. One right & one left in yoga mudrā.	Protection, sukla-pada (white light rays?), rosary & book.	Sword, bow, arrow & shield.

Misc.

Wears garland of skulls on his head.  
Garment of tiger's skin

\*Rudra of the Vedas who evolved into Śiva in later times, divided into eleven minor Rudras, collectively called Ekādāśa Rudras. The names and descriptions given here are from *Vivakarna Śilpa*. They are different in different texts. Patīṣa is a sharp-edged iron rod.

## THE EIGHT VASUS

## (DEMI-GODS OF THE RIG-VEDA)

Hands	DHARA	DHRUVA	SOMA	APA	ANILA	ANKALA	PRATYUSHA	PRABHASA
Objects in hands	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
	<i>R.h.</i> —lotus, rosary; <i>L.h.</i> —kanalaksha (rosary & wheel).	<i>R.h.</i> —lotus & rosary; <i>L.h.</i> —plough, spear of pearls.	<i>R.h.</i> —lotus & rosary; <i>L.h.</i> —plough, spear of pearls.	<i>R.h.</i> —goad, rosary; <i>L.h.</i> —rosary and strava.	<i>R.h.</i> —spear, upavāta (?).	<i>R.h.</i> —skull-cup and L.h.—shield, spear.	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, goad & skull-cup.	<i>R.h.</i> —staff and skull-cup.

(The above iconographical details are from the *Vivakarna Śilpa*)



## SASTA OR ARYA

## SON OF SIVA &amp; MOHINI (FEMALE FORM OF VISHNU)

<i>Hands</i>	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Protection and boon-giving attitudes, sword and shield
<i>Misc.</i>	Three eyes. Peaceful countenance. Golden yellow colour. Sits on padmāsana
<i>Variations</i>	I— <i>Two-handed</i> : two eyes; decked with ornaments <i>R.h.</i> —crooked stick (sardū); <i>L.h.</i> —fruits & tender leaves Big belly. Plays with dogs, sheep and fowl. Has two wives Madana and Varhani on two sides. Damanka on left of Sastā II— <i>Two-handed</i> : two eyes. Sits with left leg pendant. Right leg folded and rested upon seat vertically <i>R.h.</i> —Varadaṇḍa (crooked stick). <i>L.h.</i> —rests on lap. Youthful and peaceful in appearance. His vehicle is an elephant. Pretty dandy by his side

## ABBREVIATIONS

(The abbreviations in brackets given in the Tables refer to the source of the variations)

1. Abhaya-Purāṇa.
2. Aditya-Purāṇa.
3. Agni-Purāṇa.
4. Anshumadbhedagama.
5. Bṛhatsamhita.
6. Chaturvarga-chintamani.
7. Devi-Purāṇa.
8. Dharmasindhu.
9. Kamikavya.
10. Manasara.
11. Mantra-maharnava.
12. Mantra-mahodadhī.
13. Mantra-ratnakara.
14. Markandeya-Purāṇa.

- |     |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| AC  | 15. Matsya-Purāṇa.          |
| ADP | 16. Merutanta.              |
| AGP | 17. Nirayasinidhu.          |
| AB  | 18. Padma-Purāṇa.           |
| BS  | 19. Purvakaranagama.        |
| CC  | 10. Rupavata.               |
| DP  | 21. Rupanandana.            |
| DS  | 22. Samarangana-satradhara. |
| KK  | 23. Shilpa-ratna.           |
| MS  | 24. Sri-tatvanidhi.         |
| MM  | 25. Suprabhogama.           |
| Mm  | 26. Uttarakaranagama.       |
| MR  | 27. Vishnudharmottara.      |
| MK  | 28. Vishvakarma-sastra.     |

MTP  
MT  
NS  
PP  
PK  
RP  
RM  
SS  
SR  
ST  
SB  
UK  
VID  
VIK

## SIVA AS BHAIRAVA—DIFFERENT FORMS

## INAUSPICIOUS AND TERRIFYING FORMS OF SIVA

	CHANDA	VATURA	BAHANYA	SVACHHANDA	VARAKARANA	KUTRAPALA
<i>Hands</i>	Six? or twelve?	?	Twelve	Eighteen	Four	?
<i>Colour</i>	?	?	?	—	Yellow	?
<i>Vehicle</i>	?	?	?	—	—	?
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Protection, sword, javelin, arrow, gonad, elephant-skin, ritual wand, bow, skull-cup, shield & protection pose (RP)	Ritual wand, sword, noose, javelin, drum, skull-cup, boon-giving, serpent. Accompanied by deer of same colour (RM)	Protection, sword, gonad, axe, arrow, elephant-skin, elephant-skin, bow, trident, ritual wand, noose, boon-giving (AGP) OR <i>Four-hands</i> with thunderbolt, battle-axe, javelin and skull-cup (ST)	Rosary, sword, javelin, staff, trident (śūla), arrow, wheel, mace, ritual wand, serpent, skull-cup, shield, boon-giving, bow, bell, conch, drum and conch (AC)	Golden vessel, javelin, skin (chamarā) and tomara (ST)	Karikā (?), drum, trident (śūla), skull-cup

*Misc.*

—  
OR red dog, śūla, skull-cup, noose and drum/red patā; three eyes. Accompanied by Gauas (attendants) (ST)

—  
Three eyes, yellow dress

SIXTY-FOUR BHAIKAVAS  
EIGHT FORMS — EIGHT BHAIKAVAS IN EACH\*

	ASTANGA	BURU	CHANDA	KRODHA
<i>Names of Bhairavas</i>	Ashtanga, Visalaksha, Marauda, Modaka-priya, Svachchanda, Vighnasamushita, Khechara and Sashichara	Ruru, Krodha-danushira, Jatadhara, Visevatura, Virupaksha, Nandrapadha, Mahakaya and Vairahasta	Chaula, Pralayantaka, Bhimikampa, Nilakantha, Vishnu, Kulapalaka, Mudrapala and Kamsapala	Krodha, Pingaleksha, Abhiraupa, Dharapala, Kupila, Mantranayaka, Rudra and Prāmaha
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Trident, sword, drum and noose	Rosary, goad, lute (vial) and book	Fire (Agni), spear mace and kunda	Sword, shield, long sword, and battle-axe
<i>Colour</i>	Golden	White	Blue	Smoke-coloured
	UNMATA	KAPALA	BHISANA	SAMHARA
<i>Names of Bhairavas</i>	Unmata, Vatikandya, Sankara, Bhiksha-vetala, Varada, Parvatavasi, Trineira and Tripurantaka	Kapala, Sasibhaisana, Hasticharmabharadhara, Yogila, Brahmarakshasa, Sarvapha, Sarvadevesa, Sarvabhutavidisthita	Bhisana, Bhuyahara, Sarvajala, Kallagni, Mahatandra, Dakshina, Mukhara, Asthira	Samhara, Atiriktilaga, Kallagni, Priyankara, Ghoranada, Visalaksha, Yogisa, Dakshinasthita
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Kunda or kunda, shield, parigraha (a kind of club), bhindupala	Kunda or kunda, shield, parigraha, bhindupala	As in Kapala	As in Kapala
<i>Colour</i>	White	Golden yellow	Red	Colour like lightning

\* The eight forms of Bhairava of the previous page are further divided into eight subordinate forms in the *Rudra Yamala*, thus making sixty-four in all.

KSETRAPALA

MINOR GUARDIANS OF FIELDS AND VILLAGES\*—(RP and RM)

	KATIVIKA	RAJASA	TAMASA
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	Three	Three
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Six	Eight
<i>Colour</i>	White	Red	Black
<i>Vehicle</i>	?	?	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Trident (tila) and skull-cup, or boon-giving pose, trident (tila), skull-cup, or bell, drum and protection pose	Javelin, sword, bell, shield (khetaka), skull-cup and noose of serpent	Bow, arrow, javelin, sword, bell, shield (khetaka), skull-cup and serpent-noose

\* Most popular in the South, the images of these minor deities are placed in the north-eastern quarter of the village to face westwards. Generally large and nude, they have a ferocious expression and carry the emblems of *Shiva*. Mostly made of stone and clay, these images are brightly coloured.



# SUBRAHMANYA

(SKANDA OR KARTTIKEYA)  
(Page 46)

(SATTVIK\* IMAGES—TWO-ARMED)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
R.h.—lotus L.h.—on waist	R.h.—protection pose L.h.—on waist	R.h.—staff L.h.—on waist	R.h.—aktyāyudha (spear) L.h.—thunderbolt	R.h.—aktyāyudha L.h.—fowl (kukkuta)

RAJASIK\* IMAGES—FOUR-ARMED

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
R.h.—protection pose & spear L.h.—boon-giving pose & thunderbolt	R.h.—protection pose & rosary L.h.—boon-giving pose & vase	R.h.—protection pose & rosary L.h.—on waist & fowl	R.h.—protection pose & spear L.h.—rosary & fowl	R.h.—protection pose & spear L.h.—on waist & vase	R.h.—protection pose & spear L.h.—shield (khetaka) & fowl	R.h.—sword & spear L.h.—shield (khetaka) & fowl

TAMASIK\* IMAGES—TWELVE-ARMED

Objects in hands	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Spear, arrow, sword, flag, mace, protection pose, thunderbolt, bow, shield, lotus, trident, boon-giving pose	Spear, arrow, sword, wheel, noose, prasādi, tāhastā, 7, conch, fowl, bow, staff, plough	Spear, flag, sword, wheel, noose, protection pose, thunderbolt, bow, arrow, thunderbolt, noose, shield, staff, boon-giving pose	Spear, flag, sword, wheel, noose, protection pose, thunderbolt, bow, arrow, thunderbolt, noose, shield, staff, boon-giving pose	Spear, thunderbolt, wheel, noose, goad, mace, trident, protection pose, lotus, staff, goad, boon-giving pose	Spear, arrow, sword, protection pose, bow, shield, trident, fowl, wheel, noose, 7, boon-giving pose

Six-armed

Objects in hands	R.h.—protection pose, sword, spear L.h.—shield, rosary & fowl
------------------	--

Eight-armed

Thunderbolt, spear, protection pose, boon-giving pose, sword, shield, arrow and bow	Or Lotus, thunderbolt, spear, protection pose, boon-giving pose, sword, shield and noose
---	---

\* *Sārvā*—Seated in Yoga posture, hands granting boons. *Rājāsik*—Seated on a vehicle, ornamented, granting boons and holding offensive weapons. *Tāmasik*—terrible fighting image, fully armed.

## DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SUBRAHMANYA

	SAKTHIABARA	SCANTA	SENAPATI	DEVASENAPATI	SUBRAHMANYA	GAJAVAHANA
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two or four	Ten	Four	Two or four	Four
<i>Feet</i>	One	One	Six	One	—	One
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —spear <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt When 4 hands, shows a fowl & protection attitude besides	<i>R.h.</i> —staff <i>L.h.</i> —on waist When 4 hands, two in boon-giving & protection poses, while two carry a fowl & thunderbolt	One arm around Devi, seated on his left lap, the corresponding right hand holds a lotus. Other hands hold: trident, shield, thunderbolt, bow, mace, bell, fowl & protection pose	Protection & boon-giving poses, conch & wheel	Protection pose, spear, fowl, lotus or on waist and protection pose	<i>R.h.</i> —spear & protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —fowl and boon-giving pose
<i>Misc.</i>	Yall crown decorative Embodiment of <i>Jñāna-śakti</i> (Knowledge) (ST)	Popularly known as the Palaniyandavar. Sits on lotus; wears a karaṇḍa crown (ST)	Twelve eyes	Black colour Adorned with ornaments. Pretty smiling face (ST)	Saffron colour Red clothing	—
<i>Hands</i>	Twelve	Six	—	Twelve	Twelve	Eight
<i>Feet</i>	Six	Six	—	Six	—	Six
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Protection pose, boon-giving pose, spear, bell, flag, lotus, fowl, noose, staff, chisel, bow & arrow	Two in protection and boon-giving poses Others carry thunderbolt, shield, spear & sword	<i>R.h.</i> —spear and sword <i>L.h.</i> —fowl and shield	<i>R.h.</i> —spear, arrow, sword, flag, mace, protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —bow, thunderbolt, lotus, katāka-hasta spear, thunderbolt, boon-giving pose, & perhaps a shield	Goad, flag, sword, katāka-hasta pose, protection pose, noose, wheel, wooden pestle, spear, thunderbolt, boon-giving pose & shield	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, spear, protection pose, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving pose, thunderbolt, bow and shield
<i>Misc.</i>	Yellow colour. Face like full-blown lotus	—	—	Seated on peacock Saffron colour Twelve eyes	—	—
<i>Variations</i>	One face & six arms. Carries in his hands: flowery arrows, bow of sugarcane, sword, shield, thunderbolt & fowl (ST)	One face, ten-armed <i>R.h.</i> —trident, wheel, goad, protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —tamara, noose, conch, thunderbolt & boon-giving. Peacock vehicle by side. (ST)	Protection & boon-giving poses in place of sword & shield (ST)	Carries conch, wheel, cock, noose & plough. Jayal & Vijaya on two sides (ST)	One face, three eyes. Seated on an elephant. Carries sword & spear in two right hands & one hand in protection pose; left hands carry shield & rosary while another is in boon-giving attitude (ST)	One face, four arms; two hands in boon-giving & protection attitudes, while two carry bow & arrow. Or two front hands are shown as breaking the Krauncha mountain. Peacock vehicle close by (ST)

# DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SUBRAHMANYA (Contd.)

	VENANI	BRADHA-SASTA	BALASVAMI	SICHIVAHANA	VALLIKALYANASUNDARA	AGNIJATA-SUBRAHMANYA
<i>Hands</i>	Twelve	Four	Two	Four	Four	Eight
<i>Feet</i>	—	One	—	One	—	Two
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sword, wheel, goad, spear, protection, trident, boon-giving, lotus, staff & mace	Rosary, vase, boon-giving & protection poses	If shown along with his parents in Somaskanda Siva, he carries a lotus in each hand. If shown separately, he carries a lotus in the right hand & keeps his left hand on the waist	Boon-giving & protection poses and carries spear & thunderbolt	Carries rosary & vase. One hand in protection attitude & the fourth rests on the waist	R.h.—sacificial spoon, rosary & sword. Fourth in swastika pose. L.h.—thunderbolt, cock, shield, and vessel of clarified butter
<i>Misc.</i>	Twelve eyes	Two eyes. In this aspect Subrahmanya puts down the pride of Brahmā, by exposing his ignorance of the Vedas	Subrahmanya as a child	Destroyer of the enemies of the gods	Shows Subrahmanya's marriage to Valli. Brahmā with a sacrificial spoon officiating at the ceremonies. Vishnu with a water-vessel ready to pour water. Gods and goddesses attend. Bride & bridegroom wear numerous ornaments	Engaged in offering sacrifice

	SAURABHYA-SUBRAHMANYA	GANGEYA-SUBRAHMANYA	GUHA-SUBRAHMANYA	BRAHMACHARI-SUBRAHMANYA	DESIKA-SUBRAHMANYA
<i>Hands</i>	Eight	Four	Four	Two	Six
<i>Feet</i>	Four	One	One	—	One
<i>Objects in hands</i>	R.h.—spear, lotus, bowery arrows & protection pose. L.h.—thunderbolt, bow, trident & boon-giving pose	R.h.—battle-axe, vase (pirunakumbha). L.h.—araali (piece of wood used for generating fire by friction) and cock	R.h.—thunderbolt & trident. L.h.—boon-giving & protection poses	R.h.—staff. L.h.—thunderbolt	Carries spear, rosary in two hands. Two hands exhibit boon-giving & protection attitudes. One may be in chin-mudra pose
<i>Misc.</i>	Eight eyes. Sits on a lotus	Wears a karauda crown. Stands on makara & carries a flag with a cock painted on it	Three eyes. Black colour. His consort is by his side	Two eyes. Tuft of hair on head, sacred thread, grass girdle, etc. Stands on lotus, with right leg firmly placed on it & left leg slightly bent. Red colour	Wears a karauda crown. Sits on a peacock. In this aspect, Subrahmanya taught his own father Siva, the significance of the sacred syllable OM. Siva sits cross-legged, with one of his right hands closing his mouth and another kept on the chest in the jhāna mudra. The other two hands carry a chisel & deer. Parvati stands by his side. In this aspect Siva is called Sahya-bhava-mūrti (MS)



## VIRABHADRA

(Page 46)

Two, four or eight

Bull

Vishā and trident (AC)

OR protection pose; śūla, mace and boon-giving pose (AB)

OR trident, vishā, on waist and one in tarini pose (VID)

OR boon-giving &amp; protection poses, deer and chisel (SR)

## Variations

I—Four-handed: sword, arrow, bow and khetaka (shield)

Three eyes. Jataḥ which emit fire, garland of bells, garland of scorpions, sacred thread of cobra. Stands on a pair of wooden sandals (UK)

II—Four-handed: sword, bow, arrow &amp; mace. Three eyes. Wears a garland of skulls. Stands on a pair of wooden sandals. Bhadrakālī on the side. On the right side of Virabhadra is Dakṣiṇa Prajāpati with a goat's head, with his two hands folded in adoration of Śiva (ST)

III—Eight-handed: seated on a corpse (vetala). Two hands in protection and boon-giving poses. The rest carry sword, śūla, battle-axe, drum, khetaka (shield) &amp; skull-cup. Three eyes; of terrific countenance. Accompanied by Ganas (Śiva's attendants) (SR)

## VARIOUS IMAGES OF GANAPATI

## SAKTI-GANESA\*

	LAKṢMI-GANAPATI	VARICHIŚHITA-GANAPATI	MAHA-GANAPATI	VEDHIVA-GANAPATI	PINGALA-GANAPATI	SAKTI-GANAPATI
<b>Symbols</b>	Parrot, pomegranate, lotus, water-vessel, goad, noose, kalpakalātā & the bud of the plant Bāṇa	Lotus, pomegranate, a lute (vīṇā) & rosary (KK)	Lotus, pomegranate, water-vessel, mace, his broken tusk, sugar-cane, ears of paddy & noose	—	—	—
<b>Colour</b>	White	—	Red	Golden yellow	—	Crimson
<b>Hands</b>	Eight	Four	Ten	Six	Six	—
<b>Objects in hands</b>	—	—	—	Five carry a Kalhara flower, ears of paddy, bow made of sugar-cane, arrow & tusk. Sixth should embrace Sakti (spouse)	Mango, flower of Kalpaka tree, sugar-cane, sesamum, sweetmeat ball & axe	Noose & thunderbolt or tusk, goad, noose & rosary & sweetmeat ball in trunk
<b>Sakti</b>	—	—	Sakti on lap holds lotus	—	—	Cream-coloured
<b>Misc.</b>	—	—	—	—	Lakṣmi by side	—
<b>Variations</b>	Four-handed. Two hands hold the teeth & wheel. Third in protection pose. Fourth probably holds Lakṣmi in embrace. Three eyes (Mn)	I—Four hands: carries bow, arrow, noose, and goad. Red in colour. Seated on Padmāsana Attempting coitus with a Devi (MM)	—	—	—	—

(Contd. on next page)

\* Combined image of Ganapati and Devi

## GANAPATI (Contd.)

11—Four hands: Three carry noose, goad, sugar-cane. Fourth touches private parts of naked Devi. Wears Ratnamukuta. Nude Devi sits on his lap. Name of goddess is Vighneśvart (UK)

## OTHER FORMS

HERAMBHA	PRASANNA-GANAPATI	DHVAJA-GANAPATI	UNMATTI-UTCHISHITA GANAPATI	VIGHNARAJA-GANAPATI
—	—	Four	Four	Not mentioned
Noose, tusk, rosary and axe & three-headed club (mudgara), sweetmeat ball, boon-giving & protection poses	Noose, goad, boon-giving & protection poses	Book, rosary, staff, vase	Noose, goad, vessel of sweetmeat balls & tusk	Noose & goad
Golden yellow	Or noose, goad, tusk & sweetmeat ball	—	—	—
Five elephant heads, four facing the four cardinal points and the fifth looking upwards. Sits on lion	Scarlet	Terrific look	Seated on lotus seat	Seated on mouse

Hands  
Objects in hands

Colour  
Misc.

BRUVANESA-GANAPATI	NRITTA-GANAPATI	HARIDRA-GANAPATI OR RATRI-GANAPATI
Eight	Eight or four	Four
Conch, bow of sugar-cane, arrows of flowers, broken tusk, noose, goad, shoots of paddy grass	Noose, goad, cakes, axe (kuthāra), broken tusk, a quail (valaya) & a ring. Remaining hand left freely hanging to help other bodily movements of the dance	Noose, goad, sweetmeat balls & broken tusk
—	Dancing Ganapati. Left leg slightly bent, while the right leg is bent and held up in the air	—

Hands  
Objects in hands

Misc.

BALA-GANAPATI	TARUNA-GANAPATI	BHAKTI-VIGHNESVARA	VIRA-VIGHNESA
Four	—	Four	Sixteen
Mango, plantain, jack fruit and sugar-cane	Noose, goad, wood-apple, jamba fruit, the sesamum and bamboo-stick	Coconut, mango, hump of sugar, cup of pāyasa (a preparation of milk and rice)	Vampire (vetāla), spear, bow and arrows, sword and shield, mudgara
Like that of rising sun	Red	White	noose, āṣṭa, kunda (sacrificial pot), battle-axe, banner
Sculptured like a child. Head of an elephant. Wood-apple held in trunk	To be shown as a young man	—	—

Hands  
Objects in hands

Colour  
Misc.

Hands	Eight	Four	II	III
				Two
<i>Objects in hands</i>				
	Sword, mace, arrow, lotus, conch, bow, wheel & shield (AC)	<i>R.h.</i> —protection pose, conch & wheel <i>L.h.</i> —kataka, mace & lotus (AB)		
		<i>Or</i>	<i>Or</i>	
	Arrow (7), sword, mace, boon-giving, bow, shield, wheel & conch	<i>R.h.</i> — <i>Antimudra</i> & mace <i>L.h.</i> —conch & wheel (BS)		
	Vehicle—Garuda (AGP)		<i>Or</i>	
		<i>Or</i>	Protection & boon-giving poses, lotus, mace, wheel & conch (MS)	
	<i>R.h.</i> — <i>Śāntimudra</i> , conch, mace & arrow		<i>Or</i>	
	<i>L.h.</i> —conch, wheel, shield & bow (BS)		Wheel, lotus, mace & conch (SR)	
			<i>Or</i>	
			Mace, lotus, wheel & conch—Mukunda (form of Vishnu) (SR)	
			<i>Or</i>	
			1 & 2—Venu (flute), rosary & veda (book)—Hari (form of Vishnu) (SR)	
			<i>Or</i>	
			Wheel, boon-giving, mace & lotus—Mukunda (SR)	
			Wheel, conch, venu, lotus & mace and two hands in yoga mudra, Gopis pouring water—Mukunda (SR)	
			<i>Or</i>	
			Vāmadeva—protection pose, boon-giving pose accompanied by Rukmiṇi and Satyabhāmā (SR)	



# VISHNU—FOUR-HEADED IMAGES

	ANANTA	TRALOYASOHANA	VISHVARUPA	VAIKUNTHA
<i>Symbols</i>	Mace, sword, wheel, thunderbolt, goad, boon-giving attitude, conch, shield, bow, lotus, staff and noose (RP)	Wheel, conch or arrow (?) pestle, goad, conch, bow, mace and noose (AGP)	Wheel, sword, pestle, goad, patila, mudgara sword, noose, spear, sula, arrow; conch, bow, mace, noose, tomara, plough, battle-axe, staff, churi (knife) and shield (AGP)	Mace, sword, arrow, wheel, conch, shield, bow and lotus (RP & RM)
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Eagle	7	Eagle
<i>Attitude</i>	—	—	?	—
<i>Hands</i>	Four or twelve	Eight or sixteen	Twenty	Four or eight
<i>Misc.</i>	Three heads: right head of Narasimha; left head of boar and front of Purusha (RP)	Lakshmi and Sarasvati carrying lotus and lute respectively (AGP)	Four heads	—
<i>Variations</i>	<p><i>I—Four heads:</i> three heads similar to above. Fourth head of a woman, at the back. (RM)</p> <p><i>II—Four-headed:</i> mace, lotus, conch and plough. Multiple hoods, Prithvi (Earth goddess) on central hood (VID)</p>	<p><i>I—Eight-headed:</i> arrow, wheel (sword?) pestle, protection attitude, shield, plough (halia), conch and boon-giving attitude (VID)</p> <p><i>Four heads:</i> 1) Pacific, 2) Narasimha, 3) Kapila, 4) Varaha; Kautubha (jewel) on chest; yellow garments; Eagle vehicle (VID)</p> <p><i>II—Sixteen-headed:</i> Mace, wheel, goad, arrow, javelin, wheel, boon-giving pose, mudgara sword, noose, shiranga (bow), conch, lotus, vessel, horn, yoga mudra; four heads; back side head is of Kapila; Eagle vehicle (RP &amp; RM)</p>	<p>Eagle vehicle; twenty hands: banner, plough, conch, thunderbolt, goad, arrow, wheel, mahalinga, vara, yoga; banner, staff, noose, mace, sword, blue lotus, horn, pestle, flower-garland, and yoga mudra (RP &amp; RM)</p>	<p><i>Four-headed:</i> lotus, mace, wheel and conch</p> <p><i>Four heads:</i> i) Pacific, ii) Narasimha, iii) Terrific, iv) Varaha (VID)</p>

## VISHNU—OTHER FORMS

	SHESHASHAYI (on serpent) (Pls. 147-148)	VOGESHVARA	LAKSHMI-NARAYANA
<i>Symbols</i>	Conch, wheel	Conch and wheel in upper two hands; lower in attitude of meditation. Show lotus and mace behind (VIK)	Lotus, conch, wheel. Fourth hand entwines Lakshmi seated on left lap (CC)
<i>Vehicle</i>	Shesha	?	Eagle
<i>Asana</i>	Sleeping or seated	Sits on lotus	Padmasana
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Two, four or eight
<i>Misc.</i>	Other names: Jalashayi. Anantashayi. Lies on left side. One foot held by Sri on her lap; other on serpent. Brahma on lotus springing out of his navel. Rakshasas Madhu and Kaitabha near stalk of lotus. Weapons in human form near Shesha. When Sheshashayi is accompanied by both Bhū and Sri, latter sits near his head and the former near his feet (RM)  When Sheshashayi is seated, has four hands. Lakshmi seated on left lap. Mace and wheel in human form (VID)  OR four hands carry conch and wheel, one left hand on knee and one right hand on head of Shesha. Bhṛigu and Brahmā on right. Mārkaṇḍeya and Śaṅkara on left	Eyes half-closed and turned towards the nose in contemplation	Vehicle on right; Siddhi holding fly-whisk; conch and wheel in human form; Brahmā and Śiva as devotees (VIK)  When eight hands; these hold lotus, mace, wheel, book, lotus, mirror and golden vase (SR)

# VISHNU—SEATED (ASANA) IMAGES

(See also Vishnu—Other Forms)

	YOGASANA-MURTI	BIHOGASANA-MURTI	VIRASANA-MURTI (Pl. 149)	AMBHARUKASANA-MURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two front hands in meditation (Yoga). Must <i>NOT</i> carry conch and wheel	<i>R.h.</i> —wheel and boon-giving or protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —conch or on hip in <i>sitihankaraya</i> pose	<i>R.h.</i> —wheel and protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —conch and <i>sitihankaraya</i> pose	—
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	Seated with left leg bent and right leg somewhat extended	Blue complexion, Black garment Eyes uplifted. <i>NO</i> attendant deities
<i>Attendants</i>	Śiva seated on north wall of shrine. Brahmā seated on south wall. On <i>back wall</i> —Chandra (Moon), Sūrya (Sun), Saṁak and Sanat Kumāra  On either side of Vishnu—Bhṛigu and Mārkaṇḍeya or Bhāḍeḍi and Mārkaṇḍeya	<i>Lakṣmī</i> —on right of Vishnu, seated with right leg pendant. Carries a lotus in her left hand. Right hand on lap or lion-seat or in <i>karaka</i> pose  <i>Bhāḍeḍi</i> —on left of Vishnu, seated with left leg pendant. Holds a blue lotus in her right hand. Her left hand is on lap; lion seat or in <i>karaka</i> pose  <i>Brahmā</i> —on south wall of shrine. Seated <i>Śiva</i> —on the north wall of shrine. Seated. Mārkaṇḍeya and Bhṛigu seated kneeling on floor. On back wall of shrine, behind Vishnu: Goddesses Māyā and Saṁbladīnī; musicians Tumburu and Nārada, a pair of Kinnaras (heavenly musicians), a Yakṣa, a Vidyādhara, <i>riṣis</i> Saṁak and Sanat Kumāra and Moon and Sun	Right of Vishnu—Brahmā and Mārkaṇḍeya; left of Vishnu—Śiva and Bhṛigu  Kāminī and Vyājint—celestial damsels, hold fly-whisks on either side of Vishnu. Also Saṁak, Sanat Kumāra, Tumburu, Nārada, Sūrya and Chandra	—
<i>Variations</i>	On either side of Vishnu a lotus and large-sized mace is to be carved. In two other hands Vishnu should carry wheel and conch			



## VISHNU—STANDING (STHANAKA) IMAGES

	YOGA-STHANAKA-MURTI	BRHMA-STHANAKA-MURTI	VIRA-STHANAKA-MURTI	ABHICHAIRYA-STHANAKA-MURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving or protection poses and wheel <i>L.h.</i> —on waist and conch	<i>R.h.</i> —protection or boon-giving pose and on waist <i>L.h.</i> —wheel and conch	Two carry wheel and conch. Objects in other two hands not mentioned	—
<i>Attendants</i>	<p>Brhigu and Mārkaṇḍeya kneel on right and left respectively of Vishnu; or the goddesses</p> <p>Sri and Iṣṭi in addition. Siva carved on north wall of central shrine to face south. 4-handed:</p> <p><i>R.h.</i>—battle-axe and protection pose <i>L.h.</i>—deer &amp; on waist</p> <p><i>Brahmā</i>—on south wall of central shrine, facing north. Standing. 4-armed. Two hands carry rosary and vase, third on waist. Fourth praising Vishnu</p>	<p>Sridevi on right side of Vishnu: <i>R.h.</i>—holds lotus <i>L.h.</i>—hangs freely on the side</p> <p>Bhūdevī on left of Vishnu: <i>R.h.</i>—hangs loose on the side <i>L.h.</i>—blue water-lily</p> <p>Brhigu and Mārkaṇḍeya on right and left of Vishnu respectively, kneeling</p> <p>Above Vishnu—goddesses Māyā, Saṃhādīnī, Kāminī and Vyājīnī; Tumburu and Nārada; Kinnaras, a Yaksha; the rishis Sanaka, Sanatkumāra, and Sun and Moon</p>	<p>Brahmā, Siva, Brhigu, Mārkaṇḍeya, Kṣhikṛṇḍa, Sundara, Sanaka, Sanatkumāra, Sūrya and Chandra</p>	None

## VISHNU—SLEEPING (SAYANA) IMAGES

	YOGA-SAYANA-MURTI	BIHGA-SAYANA-MURTI	VIRAJA-SAYANA-MURTI	ABHICHAIRAJA-SAYANA-MURTI
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two or four	Four	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —near pillow, touching kirtita crown <i>L.h.</i> —bent at elbow and held in kataka pose; or may be extended to touch the thigh	<i>R.h.</i> —one right hand near pillow, touches the crown <i>L.h.</i> —parallel to the body, touches the thigh Nothing is said about the position of the remaining two hands in the ancient texts. Well-built body. One-fourth body slightly raised and remaining three-fourth lying flat on serpent-bed	<i>R.h.</i> —one serves as a pillow, other holds a wheel <i>L.h.</i> —one carries conch, other parallel to body	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Vishnu should be richly ornamented	—	—	Blue complexion. In deep slumber Face presents a faded appearance Black clothing. No attendant deities Lying completely flat on Shesha with two hoods
<i>Attendants</i>	By side of sleeping Vishnu—Bhruva and Markandeya Near the feet—demons Madhu and Kaitabha Brahma on lotus issuing forth from navel Brahma on south wall, seated Siva on north wall, seated. On back wall—Ayudha-purushas, Eagle, Vishvakarma and Saptarishis, all standing with folded hands	<i>Lakshmi</i> —near head of sleeping Vishnu. Seated touching the shoulders of Vishnu. She carries a lotus in her right hand, while her left is in the kataka pose <i>Bhūmadevi</i> —seated near feet of Vishnu, touching his left foot. Right hand holds blue lotus. Left hand in kataka pose. Near feet of Vishnu—demons Madhu and Kaitabha. Markandeya—seated on right of Vishnu and on right of him Ayudha-purushas and Eagle; Surya above him. Left of Brahma—Asvini-devatas, Tumburu and Nārada.* Also Chandra. Also Dikpatis and Apsaras. Siva—on north wall; on south, outside shrine—Ganesha and on north—Durga	Near his feet—Lakshmi and Bhūmadevi. Demons Madhu and Kaitabha. Right and left of Vishnu—Markandeya and Bhruva. Brahma on lotus issuing forth from navel of Vishnu On the back wall—Five Ayudha-purushas, Eagle, Chandra, Surya, seven sages, twelve Adityas, eleven Rudras, Apsaras, Tumburu and Nārada, two Kinnaras, Simuka, Sanatsumāra and Brahma (?) and Siva	—

(See also Sheshashayi Vishnu on page 84)

## VISHNU—VASUDEVA PANCHAKA\*

	VASUDEVA	SAMKARSHANA
<i>Symbols</i>	Mace, conch, wheel, and boon-giving attitude (AGP)	Hala, pestle, mace and lotus (AGP)
<i>Vehicle</i>	?	?
<i>Asana</i>	—	?
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two or four
<i>Misc.</i>	Brahmā and Śiva on either side. Lakṣmī with lotus and Puṣhī carrying vīṇa (lute). Two Vidyadhara above. Mace and wheel in human form carrying fly-whisks, with Vāsudeva's hands over their heads. Goddess Prithvī between the feet of Vāsudeva (AGP)	—
<i>Variations</i>	<p><i>Two-handed:</i> conch and varada; or mace and wheel (AGP)</p> <p><i>Four-handed:</i> lotus, wheel, conch and mace; Śrī and Puṣhī carrying lotus and lute respectively; Or mace, lotus, conch and wheel. Of these, mace and wheel in human form carrying fly-whisks; Or mace, lotus, conch and wheel</p> <p><i>Devikā†—Four hands:</i> conch, wheel, ?, ?. On right side: Śrī, Balabhadra, Revati, Pradyumna, Rohini; left side: Bhū, Aniruddha, Ugha, Sumbā and Indikari</p> <p><i>Mānuṣa†—Two hands:</i> wheel and mace. On right side: Rukmiṇī, Balarāma with hala and pestle; Pradyumna with knife and hand on waist; Brahmā; on left side: Aniruddha with sword and shield, Sāmba with staff and eagle</p>	<p><i>Four-handed:</i> pestle, full-blown lotus, conch, and hala (plough); blue garments (VID) Or wheel, conch, mace and lotus; yellow garments</p> <p><i>Two-handed:</i> plough (hala) and staff (VID)</p>

	PRADYUMNA	ANIRUDHA	SAMBA
<i>Symbols</i>	Thunderbolt or wheel, conch, bow and arrow	Arrow, sword, bow and shield	Mace
<i>Vehicle</i>	?	?	?
<i>Asana</i>	?	?	?
<i>Hands</i>	Four or two	Two or four	?
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	?
<i>Variations</i>	<p><i>Two-handed:</i> bow and arrow (AGP)</p> <p><i>Four-handed:</i> 1) conch, lotus, wheel and mace or bow and arrow (CC)</p> <p>2) Full-blown lotus, arrow in human form, conch, bow in human form (VID)</p> <p>Or wheel, conch, mace and lotus (SR)</p> <p>Red garments</p>	<p><i>Two-handed:</i> shield and sword (VID)</p> <p><i>Four-handed:</i> 1) full-blown lotus, sword or on head of sword in human form; conch and skin or on head of skin in human form. Red garments (VID)</p> <p>2) Wheel, conch, mace and lotus. Yellow garments (SR)</p>	<p>Accompanied by spouse carrying sword and shield. Red garments (BS)</p> <p>—</p>

\* The five forms of Vishnu as Vāsudeva—Vishnu as the Supreme Brahman, the embodiment of all Knowledge.

† Daivika-Vāsudeva is Vishnu as Kṛishṇa conceived as one supreme God; Mānuṣa-Vāsudeva is Vishnu as Kṛishṇa in a human aspect as the son of Vāsudeva and Devakī.



## VISHNU—INCARNATIONS AND MINOR AVATARS

	KAMA	KALI	KRISHNA	DATTATREYA	DHANVANTARI
<i>Symbols</i>	Conch, wheel		Conch, wheel (ST)	Dharmachakra hand pose, lotus and lotus on knee	Pitcher of ambrosia
<i>Hands</i>	Four or eight	Two or four	Two	Two or four	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two in yoga, with pitcher on them. Two hold conch and wheel (VID)	Sword, conch, wheel and mace (AGP)		Two hold lotus, one in vyākhyāna pose, one on knee	Lotus, protection pose, pitcher of ambrosia and Sastra-Yantra (SR)
<i>Asana</i>	Padmāsana	†	?	?	?
<i>Vehicle</i>	?	Horse	?	?	?
<i>Misc.</i>	Jatā crown, beard and sacred thread	Horse-head and human body. When riding a horse, carries a bow and an arrow	Plays on lute, Rukmini carrying blue lotus on one side, and Satyabhāmā on Eagle on the other side	Goose, Eagle, Bull portrayed on seat	One of the 14 precious objects which came out of the churning of the ocean. Divine physician came out carrying pitcher of ambrosia
<i>Variations</i>	Eight hands: protection pose, wheel, sword, plough, one on waist, conch, noose and staff. Red garments. Accompanied by Savitri				Two-handed; pitcher of ambrosia and jalū (leech)
					Four-handed; conch, wheel, leech and ambrosia pitcher. Yellow garments (SR)

## VISHNU AS VARAHA\*

	Bhīṣavarūpa	Vaṇavarūpa	Pralaya-Varūpa
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two hold conch and wheel. One left hand supports Goddess Earth, seated on his bent right leg. One right hand round the waist of the goddess	Two carry conch and wheel	Two hold conch and wheel. one in protection pose, other on thigh
<i>Asana</i>	Right leg bent and rests upon serpent Adīśha, who is accompanied by his wife	Sits on lion-seat, with right leg pendant	Sits on lion-seat with right leg pendant
<i>Misc.</i>	Face of boar with body of man. Boar face lifted up to touch the bosom of the Earth Goddess. Goddess Earth—heavily ornamented, seated on right leg on her Lord, with both legs pendant	Decked in ornaments. Goddess Earth (Prithivi) on left, seated with her left foot pendant, carrying a lotus in her left hand while the right rests on the seat (pitha)	Goddess Earth sits on the same seat as Varāha, with the right leg pendant. L.h.—blue lotus; R.h.—on seat

\* Also see page 92.

## VISHNU—INCARNATIONS AND MINOR AVATARAS (Contd.)

	NARAYANA	NARADIA*	PARASHURAMA	BALARAMA
<i>Symbols</i>	Conch, wheel, lotus, rosary	Wheel, mace, conch, lotus	Battle-axe	Plough, pestle
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two, four, six or eight	Two or four	Two or four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Left hands carry conch and wheel Right hands hold Mahapadma or mace and lotus (?) —Nārāyaṇa (CC)	Wheel, lotus, mace and conch (AC)	Sword, battle-axe, bow, arrow	Plough, pestle, mace, conch
<i>Vehicle</i>	Chariot	?	?	?
<i>Animal</i>	—	Aśvika	?	?
<i>Misc.</i>	Sri holding lute on left. Musti holding lotus on right	Ferocious countenance	Jata crown	—
<i>Variations</i>	Two-handed; Nara—two hands carrying rosary; Nārāyaṇa—four hands carrying rosary. Chariot vehicle (VID)	1. 4-handed: wheel, mace, two hands tearing off entrails. Open-mouthed (AGP) 2. 6-handed: conch and lotus, two tearing entrails of Hiranyakāśipu, two on maces. Mace of flames (VID) 3. 8-handed: 1 & 8, tearing entrails of Hiranyakāśipu; 4 & 5, holding garland of entrails; 2 & 3, wheel and lotus; 6 & 7, mace and conch (AC)	1. 1 & 4—Bow and arrow, 2 & 3—sword and battle-axe (AGP) 2. Conch, wheel and mace (SS)	1. Two-handed: mace and plough (AGP) 2. Four-handed: wheel, pestle, plough, conch (AGP) 3. Two-handed: plough and pestle (RM and VID) 4. Two-handed: plough and pestle (SS) or plough and wine-flask (ST) 5. Four-handed: wheel and pestle (SS)

\* Also see Table on page 93.

## VISHNU—INCARNATIONS AND MINOR AVATARAS (Contd.)

	BUDDHA	MATSYA	KURMA	RAMA	VARADARAJA	MOHINI
<i>Symbols</i>	Boon-giving and protection poses in <i>dhyanā</i>	—	—	Bow and arrow	Wheel and conch in upper two hands; one hand in <i>varada</i> , other on waist—(lower two hands)	—
<i>Hands</i>	Two	—	—	Two or four	Four	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Boon-giving and protection poses (AGP)	Conch, wheel, boon-giving and protection poses	Conch and wheel, <i>varada</i> and <i>abhaya</i> poses	Bow and arrow (AC)	—	Vase of nectar
<i>Vehicle</i>	Seated on lotus	—	—	—	?	—
<i>Āsana</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Long ears, deer-skin on shoulder	Lower half, fish; upper half, four-handed Viśvō, Kirita crown	Lower half, tortoise; upper half, four-handed Viśvō	—	If lower left hand rests on mace, he is <i>Varada-rāja</i>	Beautiful young lady wearing colourful garments. Decorated with ornaments. Carrying a vase of nectar in hand
<i>Variations</i>	In <i>dhyanā</i> pose. Red garments. Deer-skin on shoulder (RM & VID)	1. <i>Two-handed</i> , bow and arrow (AGP) 2. <i>Four-handed</i> , bow, arrow, conch (AGP) 3. Wears a kirita crown <i>Companions</i> : Sita stands on his right. <i>L.h.</i> —blue lotus. <i>R.h.</i> —hangs loose on right. Lakshmana stands on left side of Rāma. Holds bow and arrow. Hanumana, Monkey-god, stands in front, on Rāma's right. Two hands. <i>R.h.</i> —on mouth, <i>L.h.</i> —hangs loose on left. <i>Bhārata and Shatrughna</i> —Rāma's brothers. Hold bows and arrows Rāma seated in Virāsana				



## VISHNU—INCARNATIONS AND MINOR AVATARAS (Contd.)

	VARAHA*	VAMANA	TRIVIKRAMA	VITTHAL
<i>Symbols</i>	Boar-head	Vase and umbrella	Wheel, mace, conch	Lotus-stalk and conch
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two	Two, four, six, or eight	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Wheel, conch, mace, lotus	Vase and umbrella	—	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	?
<i>Asana</i>	7 or simhasana	Standing	—	Standing
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Dwarf Brāhmaṇa, with tufted hair. Sacred thread, deer-skin	—	Crown which looks like plain fez cap. Both hands on waist holding stalk of lotus and conch. Ornaments

<i>Variations</i>	<p>1. 4-handed: one on waist, another holding mace, third supporting goddess Prithvi; fourth carrying lotus. Boar-face (AC)</p> <p>2. 4-handed: mace, wheel, conch and lotus or Lakshmi at left corner. Bhūdevī and Shesha near two feet. Man-boar form (AGP)</p> <p>3. 4-handed: one on waist; two carrying lotus and mace. Fourth on knee or near jaw holding lotus. Feet on tortoise (MTP)</p> <p>4. 2-handed: mace and lotus. Boar-face (RP)</p> <p>5. 4-handed: wheel, mace, conch and Earth Goddess and lotus. Serpent Shesha carrying plough and mace. Two in aṭṭṭal pose. Looking up at Varaha-face (VID)</p> <p>6. 4-handed: Adi-Varaha—conch, wheel. Right foot on Shesha, with goddess Prithvi on lap supporting her with left hand. Smelling her with his nostrils</p> <p>7. 8-handed: wheel, conch, sword, shield, mace, sakti, varada, abhaya hand poses (SR)</p>	<p>1. One foot on ground straight and firm; another raised up, occupying Heaven. Nearby stand Vāmana and King Bali with bow. Behind, Varaha, Vāyū and Varuṇa carrying fly-whisks. Sūrya on right. Moon on left. Sanaka and Sanāt-kumara, Brāhmā on stretched leg; Śaṅkara near navel with folded hands, Namiśi between legs; Eagle behind left leg of Trivikrama; Vāmana on right. Behind him Bali holding vase accompanied by wife; Jambuvant beating drum</p> <p>2. Left foot on earth, right in sky. Vāmana with down-cast eyes. King Bali being bound (AC)</p> <p>3. Hands stretched up. Vāmana carrying vase and umbrella. King Bali carrying vase, being bound by Garuda (MTP)</p> <p>4. Trivikrama carrying staff, noose, conch, wheel, mace and lotus (VID)</p>
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\* Also see description on pages 29-30 and Table on page 89.

## VISHNU—INCARNATIONS AND MINOR AVATARAS (Contd.)

	VENKATESH	HAYAGRIVA
<i>Symbols</i>	Conch and wheel in upper two hands. Lower two hands in protection pose and on waist. Serpent Valaya carved on right hand	Conch, wheel, mace.
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Carries lotus, conch, wheel and mace in hands	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—
<i>Asana</i>	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Śaivites and Vaiṣṇavites offer him worship and claim him Monkey-god Hanumāna and the Eagle keep him company	—
<i>Variations</i>	—	1. 4-handed: conch, wheel, mace and Veda. Left foot on serpent Shesha, right on tortoise (AGIP) 2. 4-handed: conch, rosary, book and vyākhyāna hand pose 3. 8-handed: conch, wheel, mace, lotus. Four hands on anthropomorphic forms of Vedas; horse-head (VID) 4. 4-handed: seated on lotus. One hand in vyākhyāna hand pose. Other three carry conch, wheel and book (ST)

## VISHNU AS NARASIMHA\*

	Girija-Narasimha	Śhāma-Narasimha	Yānika-Narasimha
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	When he has 4 hands—upper right hand holds a wheel and upper left, conch. Other two rest on knees	In two back hands—conch and wheel. Front right hand—protection pose; front left hand—boon-giving attitude	Two carry conch and wheel but nothing is said about the other two hands
<i>Misc.</i>	Sits on lotus, with heads kept close to bottom. Legs held in position by belt (vyāga-patī)	Sits on lion-seat, with right leg pendant. Neck shows thick mane and curved teeth	Serpent vehicle
<i>Variations</i>	—	Hiranyakasipu stretched on left thigh of Narasimha. With two hands, he rips open the belly of the demon Has 12 to 16 hands. Two open the belly of the demon. Two lift up the entrails, one right hand holds the legs of the demon, one holds a sword, one left hand holds the crown of the demon and lifted to administer a blow Attendants—Śrī, Bhū, Nārada and Pralāda, son of the demon. Also eight Guardians of the Quarters (Asta-dikpālas)	—

\* Also see Table on page 93.

## IMAGES OF KRISHNA

General	NAVANITA-NRITA-MURTI	VENU-GOPALA (Pl. 150-151)	PARTHASARATHI	KALIYA-NARADAKA-KRISHNA (Pl. 152)	GOVARDHANA-DHARA-KRISHNA (Pl. 153)
	Dancing with joy. Stands on left leg, bent at knee and right leg lifted. Krishna as a youth	Playing on the flute. Stands erect on left leg, with right leg thrown across, behind or in front to touch the ground. Stands in tribhanga	Charisoteer of Pārtha (Arjuna)	Krishna as child dances upon the hood of the serpent Kaliya to destroy it	Body is bent to the left or the right. Cows, cowherds and cow-herdesses shown taking shelter under the Govardhana mountain raised aloft by Krishna to save all from the deluge

Hands	Right hand in protection attitude or holding a ball of butter	Flute in two hands (not shown in bronzes but hands in attitude of playing flute)	Holds reins in one hand and cane in the other. Sometimes the right hand is held in the preaching attitude (vyākhyāna-mudrā), or <i>R.h.</i> —conch, <i>L.h.</i> —in boon-giving attitude	Holds the tail of the serpent in his left hand, and holds his right hand like a streamer. One hand in protection pose OR Stamps with left foot the body of serpent, with right foot on its hood	Supports mount Govardhana with either the right or the left hand; the other hand hangs loose by the side

## KRISHNA—GENERAL

Hands	Two
Objects in hands	<i>R.h.</i> —a curved stick, <i>L.h.</i> —lifted up and bent at the elbow. May hold a conch in this hand
Mar.	Clothed in red garments. Ornamented. Kirtita crown. Colour blue Companions—Rukmini on right—flowery head-dress. <i>L.h.</i> —lotus, <i>R.h.</i> —hangs loose by the side Satyabhāmā on left—decorative hair-dress. <i>R.h.</i> —flower, <i>L.h.</i> —hangs loose. Both these may wear a karaṇḍika crown.



## THE TWENTY-FOUR IMAGES OF VISHNU

As mentioned in the ancient texts showing the different arrangements of the objects held in the hands

<i>Names</i>	<i>Agni-Purāṇa</i>	<i>Padma-Purāṇa</i>	<i>Chaturvarga Chintāmaṇi</i>	<i>Dharmasūtra</i>	<i>Vaidharabha Śāstra</i>	<i>Abhilashārtha Chintāmaṇi</i>
1. Keśava	PSCG	PSCG	—	PSCG	PSCG	PSCG
2. Nārāyaṇa	SPGC	SPGC	PSGC	SPGC	SPGC	SPGC
3. Mādhava	GCSP	GCSP	GCSP	GCSP	GCSP	GCSP
4. Govinda	CGPS	CGPS	CGPS	CGPS	CGPS	CGPS
5. Viṣṇu	GPSC	GPSC	GPSC	GPSC	GPSC	GPSC
6. Mādhusūdana	SCPG	CSPG	CSPG	CSPG	CSPG	CSPG
7. Trivikrama	PGCS	PGCS	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC
8. Vāmana	SCGP	SCGP	SCGP	GSCP	SCGP	SCGP
9. Śrīdhara	PCGS	GCPS	PCGS	PCGS	PCGS	PCGS
10. Hrishikeśa	GCPS	PCGS	GCPS	GCPS	GCPS	GCPS
11. Padmanābha	SPCG	CPCS	SPCG	SPCG	SPCG	SPCG
12. Dāmodara	PSGC	PSGC	PCGS	PSGC	PSGC	PSGC
13. Vāsudeva	GSCP	PCGS	GSCP	SCGP	GSCP	GSCP
14. Saṅkṛāṇa	GSPC	GSPC	GSPC	GSPC	GSPC	GSPC
15. Pradyumna	GCSG <sup>1</sup>	PSCG	CSPG	CSPG	CSPG	CSPG
16. Anruddha	CGSP	CGSP	CGSP	CGSP	CGSP	CGSP
17. Puruṣottama	CPSG	CPSG	CPSG	CPSG	CPSG	CPSG
18. Adhokṣaja	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC	PGSC
19. Naraṇiṇḍha	CPCS	CPCS	CPS <sup>2</sup>	CPCS	CPCS	CPCS
20. Achyuta	GPCS	GPCS	GPCS	GPCS	GPCS	GPCS
21. Upendra	SGCP	—	PGCS	SGCP	SGCP	SGCP
22. Janīrdana	PCSG	—	PCSG	PCSG	PCSG	PCSG
23. Hari	SPCG	—	SCGP	SCGP	SCGP	SCGP
24. Śrī Kṛishṇa	SGPC	SGPC	—	SGPC	SGPC	SGPC

P, padma (lotus). S, sankha (conch). G, gadā (mace). C, chakra (discus or wheel).

Order of hands: lower right, upper right, upper left, lower left.

<sup>1</sup> The second 'G' should read as 'P'.<sup>2</sup> The last letter should be 'G'.

## THE TWENTY-FOUR IMAGES OF VISHNU

According to the *Padma-Purāṇa*

Name of Vishnu	UPPER RIGHT	UPPER LEFT	LOWER LEFT	LOWER RIGHT
1. Keśava—the Long-haired	Conch	Wheel	Mace	Lotus
2. Nārāyaṇa—the Universal Abode	Lotus	Mace	Wheel	Conch
3. Madhava—Lord of Knowledge	Wheel	Conch	Lotus	Mace
4. Govinda—Resourer of the Earth	Mace	Lotus	Conch	Wheel
5. Vishnu—the Pervader	Lotus	Conch	Wheel	Mace
6. Madhusūdana—Destroyer of Madhu	Conch	Lotus	Mace	Wheel
7. Trivikrama—Conquerer of Three Worlds	Mace	Wheel	Conch	Lotus
8. Vāmana—the Dwarf	Wheel	Mace	Lotus	Conch
9. Śrīdhara—Bearer of Fortune	Wheel	Lotus	Conch	Mace
10. Hṛṣīkeśa—Lord of the Senses	Wheel	Mace	Conch	Lotus
11. Padmanābha—whose Navel is the Lotus	Lotus	Conch	Mace	Wheel
12. Dāmodara—Self-restrained	Conch	Mace	Wheel	Lotus
13. Sankarṣaṇa—Resorber	Conch	Lotus	Wheel	Mace
14. Vasudeva—the Indweller	Wheel	Conch	Mace	Lotus
15. Pradyumna—the Richest	Conch	Wheel	Mace	Lotus
16. Aniruddha—the Unopposed	Mace	Conch	Lotus	Wheel
17. Puruṣottama—the Best of Men	Lotus	Conch	Mace	Wheel
18. Adhokṣaja—Sphere of the Universe	Mace	Conch	Wheel	Lotus
19. Naraṇintha—Man-Lion	Lotus	Mace	Conch	Wheel
20. Achyuta—the Never-failing	Lotus	Wheel	Conch	Mace
21. Janārdana—the Rewarder	Lotus	Wheel	Conch	Mace
22. Upendra—Brother of Indra	Conch	Mace	Wheel	Lotus
23. Hari—Remover of Sorrows	Conch	Wheel	Lotus	Mace
24. Śrī-Kṛṣṇa—the Dark One	Mace	Lotus	Wheel	Conch

Vishnu is known by about a thousand names. Of these twenty-four are important and are recited in daily worship by all devout Vaiṣṇavites. All these twenty-four images appear in a standing pose in sculpture, erect and without any body bends, on a lotus plinth. The images differ only in the order of the four emblems seen in the hands. The arrangement as given in the *Padma-Purāṇa* appears to be faulty.

## THE TWENTY-FOUR IMAGES OF VISHNU

According to the *Rupamanidama*

<i>Name of Vishnu</i>		<i>Name of Vishnu</i>	
1. Kesava	SCGP	13. Samkarasava	SPCG
2. Nārāyaṇa	PGCS	14. Vāsudeva	SCPG
3. Mādhyava	CSPG	15. Pradyumna	SGPC
4. Govinda	GPSC	16. Anirudha	GSPC
5. Vāsudeva	PSCG	17. Puruṣottama	PSGC
6. Madhusūdana	SPGC	18. Adhokṣaja	GSCP
7. Trivikrama	GCSP	19. Narmada	PGSC
8. Vāmana	CGPS	20. Aśvita	PCSG
9. Śrīdhara	CGSP	21. Janārdana	CSGP
10. Hrishīkeśa	CPSG	22. Upendra	GCPS
11. Padmanābha	PCGS	23. Hari	CPGS
12. Dāmodara	SGCP	24. Śrī-Kṛṣṇa	GPCS

S—śankha (conch), C—chakra (wheel), G—gada (mace), P—padma (lotus).

Order of hands: back right, back left, front left, front right.

The list given in the *Rupamanidama* seems to be more accurate than that in the *Padma-Purāṇa*.



## THE DIVINE MOTHERS (SAPTA-MATRIKAS)\*

	BRAHMANI	MATSEHVARI	KAMARI	VAMENAVI	VARI	INDRANI	CHAMUNDA
<i>Symbols</i>	Rosary, ladle, vase, vase	Bow, arrow, bow, wheel and bow	Sakti (spear) in both hands	Wheel, mace, conch, lotus	Staff, conch, wheel and mace	Thunderbolt and thunderbolt (AGP)	Javelin, kirtī, skull-cup, patina (steel staff with sharp end) (AGP)
<i>Vehicle</i>	Goose	Bull	Peacock	Eagle	Bull	Elephant	Corpse or owl
<i>Hands</i>	Four or six	Four, six or ten	Two, four or twelve	Four or six	?	Four or 7	Four or ten
<i>Face</i>	Four	—	—	—	(Varaha-mouth)	—	—
<i>Crown</i>	—	Jatā mukuta	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Variations</i>	I—Boon-giving, vase, rosary and protection pose (AB)	I—Śūla, protection, boon-giving and rosary. 3 eyes Jatā crown (AB)	I—4-handed: boon-giving, spear, cock and protection pose (AB)	I—Boon-giving, conch, wheel and protection (AB)	I—Plough, boon-giving, spear, protection (AB)	I—Four-handed: boon-giving, spear, thunderbolt and protection pose. Three eyes (AB)	I—Boon-giving pose, skull-cup, śūla and protection pose (AB)
	II—Akṣadtra and ladle in two lower hands and ladle and akṣadtra in two upper hands (RM)	II—Śūla, boon-giving, protection and rosary. 3 eyes (PK)	II—Vara, spear, goad and protection pose. 3 eyes (PK)	II—Six-handed: boon-giving, mace, lotus, garland, conch, wheel and protection pose (VIK)	II—Shiṣṭa (dharma), protection, plough, wooden pestle, and boon-giving pose (PK)	II—Vaira, ankusa (DP)	II—Sakti on head (Munda), skull-cup (MTP)
	III—Six-handed: boon-giving pose, ladle, book, vase and protection pose (VIK)	III—Skull-cup, śūla, ritual wand and boon-giving (MTP)	III—Śūla, spear, cock and cock (MTP)	III—Four-handed: wheel, conch, flag or skull-cup, ? chains, (SR)	III—Bell, skin, mace and wheel (MTP)	III—Vaira, śūla, gadā, sword (?)	III—Ten-handed: wooden pestle, kavacha (protective, metal covering), arrow, goad, sword, shield, noose, bow, staff and axe (VIK)
		IV—Six-handed: boon-giving, rosary, drum, śūla, bell, protection. 3 eyes, 3 faces (VIK)	IV—Śūla, spear, mace, ? (RM)	IV—Four-handed: boon-giving pose, conch, wheel, mace (RM)	IV—Six-handed: boon-giving pose, shield, noose and protection pose. Boar-face (VIK)	IV—Many eyes, vaira, rosary, vaira, kalasa, pitra, abhaya (VIK)	IV—Śūla, Khadga (sword), head, skull-cup, garland of heads (SR)
		V—Ten-handed: sword, thunderbolt, trident, battle-axe, protection, boon-giving, noose, bell, cobra and goad. Five faces, 3 eyes (ST)	V—Twelve-handed: boon-giving, spear, flag pose (pālaka), staff, bow, arrow, bow, bell, lotus, cock, battle-axe, and protection. Six faces (VIK)				

\* In Indian sculpture, the Seven Matrikas are all shown usually with one face. They are recognized by their vehicles carved below on the pedestal. They are shown seated or standing and sometimes carry children on their laps or by their sides. They are flanked on the two sides by Virabhadra and Gaṇesa.

## THE GODDESSES

The *Devīmāhātmya* of the *Mārkaṇḍeya-Purāṇa* contends that all the forms of Devī—Sātvika, Rājasa and Tāmasa—have evolved from the Super Being Mahālakṣmī. Sarasvatī, Gaūrī and Vīṣṇu are the Sātvika manifestations of the Goddess, Lakṣmī and Hīranyagarbha are its Rājasa manifestations, while as Mahākālī, Sarasvatī and Rudra are its Tāmāsika manifestations (See Gopinath Rao, Vol. I, Part II, p. 337). This Supreme Mahālakṣmī becomes the basis for the worship of Sakṭi.

Devī is worshipped both in Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism, but she has more numerous forms in the former. When she appears as the consort of Śiva, she has four arms, two of which carry the noose and the goad and two are in the boon-giving and protection poses. When the Devī accompanies Śiva, she has two hands, one of which holds a lotus. The other hangs loosely by the side. Even when she is alone, she may hold a parrot or a mirror, and the other a flower. She may also have six hands and carry in them noose, goad, conch and wheel. Two are in the boon-giving and protection poses. The Devī might be seated with Śiva, either on his left or right, with one leg pendant.

	GAURĪ	MAHONMANĪ	ŚIVA	AMBA	UMĀ	PARVATĪ
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Ten	7	7	Four	Four
<i>Colour</i>	?	—	?	White	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	Three	—	Three	—	—	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	Bull	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Śūla and mirror (AGP)	Not mentioned	Protection pose, serpent, drum and trident	Protection pose, noose, lotus and vase	Akṣatīra, lotus, mirror and vase (RM)	Rosary, Śiva, Gaupatī and vase (RM)
<i>Faces</i>	—	Five	—	—	—	—
<i>Variations</i>	I—Lotus pedestal. Red lotus, protection and boon-giving poses, chisel and śūla; three eyes (AB) II—Standing on lap of Śiva or seated on it. Hands: protection, noose, goad and boon-giving. Three eyes, karaṇḍa crown (UK) <i>Or six-handed:</i> śūla, lotus, śūla, noose, conch and wheel (UK) III—Akṣatīra, protection pose, lotus and vase (RM)	—	I—Two hands: karaṇḍa or lotus. Karaṇḍa crown (PK) II—Two hands: lotus and boon-giving pose (MS)	—	—	I—Protection pose, goad, noose and skull-cup; half-moon in crown (SR) II—Protection pose, noose, kalpatatā and skull-cup (SR)

## THE GODDESSES (Contd.)

	LALITA	SHIVA	KRISHNA	UDAYANATHI	BAMBHA	SAVITRI	TRICHANDA	OTTALA
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four ?	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Colour</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Eyes</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Rosary, lute (Vibh), lute and vase (RP)	Protection pose, rosary, lotus and boon-giving pose (RP)	Ahimsa, rosary, vase and aśhvat pose (RP)	Lotus, mirror, ? ? (RP)	Rosary, thunder- bolt, goat and vase (RP)	Rosary, book, lotus and vase (RP)	Rosary, thunder- bolt, spear and fly-whisk (RP)	
<i>Hands</i>	TRIPURA	BIHU	MAHALAKSHMI	LAKSHMI	SRI	SARASVATI		
—	—	Two	Four	Two, four or eight	Two	Four or eight		
<i>Colour</i>	—	Blue	Golden	—	—	—		
<i>Eyes</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Lotus seat	—	?	Lotus seat	—		
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Protection pose, goat, serpent-noose or noose and boon-giving pose (RP)	Lotus in both hands (AB)	Mahalinga, mace, shield and bowl of leaves (MK)	Wheel conch, lotus and mace (AGP)	Sāfala fruit and lotus (AC)	Row, mace, noose, lute (Vibh), wheel, conch, wooden pestle and goat; sometimes a rosary (AGP)		
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	—	Two lady attendants carrying fly-whisks, Elephants carrying water-pitchers to bathe her (AC)	—		
<i>Variations</i>	—	I—Two-handed: lotus and boon-giving pose (MS) II—Two hands folded in narmakara pose Holds left hand of Varaha (VID)	I—Four-handed: rosary, protection, dandima and lotus (MS) II—Four-handed: vase, mace, shield and sāfala fruit (VIB)	I—Four-handed: Mahalinga, lotus, lotus and vessel of nectar (RM) II—Four-handed: lotus, bilwafala, conch, vessel of	I—Four-handed: boon-giving, pro- tection, lotus and lotus-4 elephants bathing her with pitchers (SR)	I—Four-handed: book, rosary, lute and lotus (AGP) II—Four-handed: book, rosary, lute and vase; standing (CC)		

—(Continued)—



# THE GODDESSES (Contd.)

<i>Variations</i>			
III— <i>Four-handed</i> : bowl of jewel, bowl of terracots, bowl of medicine and lotus (VID)	III— <i>Four-handed</i> : Eagle vehicle, couch, wheel, mace, ?	nectar; two ele- phants without pitchers, lotus in head (VID)	III— <i>Four-handed</i> : teaching attitude, akṣatītra, book and lotus, 3 eyes (AB)
	III— <i>Two-handed</i> : couch and lotus (VID)		IV— <i>Four-handed</i> : sudarśa, rosary, book and karaṇa poose, 3 eyes (PK)
	IV— <i>Four-handed</i> : lotus, boon-giving, and protection pos- es, lotus (SR)		V— <i>Four-handed</i> : pro- tection and boon- giving poses, noose and goad, 3 eyes (MR)
	V— <i>Eight-handed</i> : bow, mace, arrow, lotus, wheel, conch, wooden pestle and goad (AGP)		Or Sandarśa mudrā, rosary, book and vase; or rosary, lotus, lute and book (RM)
			Or boon-giving, rosary, lotus and book (RM)
			Or book, rosary, vase (?) or trident (VID)
			Or rosary, noose, goad and protection poose (SR)
			Or wheel, conch, skull-cup, noose, battle-axe, vase of nectar, book, rosary, vidyā (knowledge) and lotus and lotus, 5 faces (SR)

## FORMS OF DEVI

(Special forms as associated directly or indirectly with Saviyam)

	BIHADRAKALI (Pl. 135)	MAHADEVI (Pl. 154)	ANITA	AMBIKA	MANGALA	SARVAMANGALA
<i>Hands</i>	Eighteen	Four or eight	Four	Four	Ten	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Rosary, trident, sword, moon, arrow, bow, conch, lotus, spoon (sriv), vase, staff, spear, fire, deer-skin, jewelled vessel. One hand is in abhaya mudra.	Sword, shield, bowl and skull-cup or Wheel, conch, mace, pitcher, pestle, battle-axe, mace and thunder-bolt	Noose, lotus, bowl and abhaya mudra	Sword, shield, mirror and boon-giving pose	Trident, rosary, bow, mirror, arrow, shield, sword and moon boon-giving and protection hand-poses	Akṣatṛa, lotus, trident and vase
<i>Misc.</i>	Seated on a chariot drawn by four lions Handsome appearance	—	—	Lion vehicle Three eyes	Sits on a lion-seat Wears a Jata crown Lovely appearance	Lion vehicle
<i>Hands</i>	KALAKRITHI —	LALITA Four	GAURI Two or four	PARVATI Four	KAMBHA Four	TOTALA Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	—	R.A.—fruit and small box L.A.—mirror and conch	If two: varada and abhaya poses If four: rosary, lotus, vase and abhaya mudra	Rosary, image of Śiva, image of Gaṇeśa and vase	Vase, rosary, thunderbolt and battle-axe	Trident, rosary, staff and fly-whisk
<i>Misc.</i>	Represents Śakti as destructive power. Sits on aśva and is nude. Terrific appearance	Standing posture. Decorated with ornaments	Bestows wealth and merit	—	Sits on elephant Handsome	Destroys all sins
<i>Hands</i>	TRIPURA Four	BIJUTAMATA Two	Sword and shield	YOGANIDRA Two	YAMA Two	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two carry battle-axe and noose. Two exhibit varada and abhaya mudrās	—	Black. Long eyes Seated on lion seat	Drinking vessel	Skull-cup and abhaya mudrās	—
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	PIYESTHA Two	KALI Two	Lotus and skull-cup	KALAVIKARNIKA Two	BALAVIKARNIKA Two	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Skull-cup and arrow	—	Destroyer of fear	Skull-cup and spear	Skull-cup and rosary	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Terrific and powerful	—	—	Removes fear and gives happiness	Giver of peace	—
<i>Hands</i>	BALAPRAMATHANI Two	SARVABHUTADAMANI Two	Skull-cup and thunderbolt	MANOMANI Two	VARUNI-CHAMUNDA Two	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Skull-cup and noose	—	—	Skull-cup and sword	Trident and arrow	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Destroyer of enemies	—	—	Bestows wealth and terrifies enemies	Pendulous breasts and flabby belly	—





## SPECIAL FORMS OF DURGA\*

	SILAKANTHI	KISHIMANKARI	HARASIDDHI	RUDRAMBA-DURGA	VANA-DURGA
<i>Symbols</i>	Four hands carrying a trident, shield, a vessel and boon-giving attitude Bestows wealth and happiness	One hand in boon-giving attitude and the other three carry a trident, a lotus and a vessel Bestows good health	Carries in her hands a drum (damru), a vase, sword and vessel Bestows desired ends	Carries in her hands the trident, sword, conch and wheel. Wears a kirtita crown. Her vehicle is lion. Sun and Moon on either side of her	Eight hands carry conch, wheel, sword, shield, arrow, bow, trident and one in tarjani mudra
	AGNI-DURGA	JAYA-DURGA	VINDHIVASINI-DURGA	RUPMARI-DURGA	
<i>Symbols</i>	Eight hands carry wheel, sword, shield, arrow, noose and axe. One in boon-giving attitude and the other with raised index finger Her vehicle is lion. Two celestial damsels on either side carrying sword and shield	Carries in her hands a conch, wheel, sword and trident Bestows Siddhi Her vehicle is lion. Three eyes	Two hands carry conch and wheel. Two exhibit boon-giving and protection attitudes Her vehicle is lion. Surrounded by Indra and other gods. Three eyes	One hand holds trident, the other with raised index finger Destroys enemies Feroocious look	

\*In the usual form Durgā may have four, eight or more hands. She wears a karaṇḍa mukuta and ornaments. She has her front right hand in the protection posture and her back one holds the wheel. The front left hand is in the kāyaka pose and the back one carries the conch. Durgā may stand erect on padmāsana, or on a buffalo head, or on the back of a lion

## SPECIAL FORMS OF MAHALAKSHMI AS THE SUPREME GODDESS

	MAHATRYA	MAHAVANI	BHARATI	SARASVATI	ARYA	BRAHMANI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Rosary, lotus, lute and book	Rosary, book, lute and lotus	Boon-giving pose, rosary, lotus and book	Boon-giving pose, lotus rosary and book	Boon-giving pose, rosary, book and lotus	Boon-giving pose, book, rosary and lotus
	MAHADEVI	VEDAGARBHA	ISVARI	MAHALAKSHMI	MAHAKALI	MAHASARASVATI
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Boon-giving pose, lotus, lute and book	Boon-giving pose, book, lute and lotus	Rosary, protection pose, lotus and book	Rosary, protection pose, book and lotus	Rosary, lotus, book and protection pose	Rosary, book, protection pose and lotus



## SUN AND THE PLANETS

## (SURYA &amp; GRAHAS)

	SUN (SURYA)	MOON (CHANDRA)	MARS (MANGALA)	MERCURY (BUDHA)	JUPITER (BRIHASPATI)
<i>Symbols</i>	Lotus in each of the two hands	Mace and varada pose or vase and rosary OR lotus and lotus	Vara, javelin, javelin, mace, OR javelin and rosary, OR staff and vase or sakti javelin, mace, ritual wand	Vara, sword, shield, mace OR bow and rosary or yoga mudra	Vara, rosary, vase, staff OR book and rosary OR vase and rosary
<i>Vehicle</i>	One-wheeled chariot driven by 7 horses, or one horse with 7 heads	Chariot driven by 10 horses	Goat	Lion	Golden chariot driven by 8 horses
<i>Asana</i>	†	Simhasana, 7, standing pose or seated	†	†	†
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Two or four	Two or four	Two or four
<i>Misc.</i>	Kirtita crown; Daouda and Pingala* on two sides carrying shield and sword. A writer holding a pen; sometime wives Rājī and Nikshubhā holding fly-whisks	Rohini on right, Kānti and Shobhā, wives, on two sides (sometimes)	—	Lion or chariot driven by 4 horses	—

	VENUS (SUKRA)	SATURN (SANI)	RAHU	KETU
<i>Symbols</i>	Vara, rosary, vase, staff OR vase and rosary	Vara, arrow, bow, javelin OR staff and Vara OR staff and vase, staff and rosary	Vara, sword, shield, javelin, aślā mudra	Vara and mace OR sword and lamp
<i>Vehicle</i>	Chariot driven by eight or ten horses	Vulture, he-buffalo, chariot driven by eight vultures	—	Vulture
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two or four	Two	Four
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	Carved like half-moon. Ugly faced. Tiger mouth	Like serpent-tail. Ugly face
<i>Asana</i>	†	†	Simhasana	†

\* Daouda (Yama) and Pingala (Agni) are the doer-keepers of Surya



## THE TWELVE ADITYAS

## (THE TWELVE FORMS OF SŪRYA)

	DHATRI	MITA	ARVAMAN	RUDRA	VARUNA	SURYA
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Garland of lotus, vase, lotus and lotus	Soma, trident, lotus and lotus	Wheel, kaumodaki (a kind of gada), lotus and lotus	Rosary, wheel, lotus and lotus	Wheel, moose, lotus and lotus	Vase, rosary, lotus and lotus

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	BHAGA	VIVASVAN	PUSHAN	SAVITRI	TVASHTRI	VISHNUR
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Trident, wheel, lotus and lotus	Trident (śāla), garland, lotus and lotus	Lotus in each of the four hands	Mace, wheel, lotus and lotus	Sacrificial spoon, Hornaja-kalika (?), lotus and lotus	Wheel, lotus, lotus and lotus

# BUDDHIST ICONOGRAPHY

## BUDDHA SCULPTURES

✓ THE STORY of Buddhist sculpture begins with Aśoka. The Hinayāna school, which influenced the construction of the stupas of Sanchi and Bharhut, was as vigorous as the Mahāyāna school. The sculpture of Sanchi and Bharhut is spirited and full of life. The Jataka stories, the Yakshas and Yakshinis, are portrayed with great force. The figure of the Buddha is however absent. He is represented symbolically by the Wheel (Dharmachakra) and other symbols. In the Hinayāna form, the Buddha image had no place as the Buddha himself was against image worship. With the rise and spread of Mahāyānism in North-West India the image of the Buddha was introduced into Buddhist art. The new school which sprang up in Gandhara and Mathura at the same time in the first century A.D. defied the Hinayāna school and gradually the image of the Buddha began to adorn all subsequent Buddhist sites, in India and outside (Pls. 156-158).

## DHYĀNI BUDDHAS

### *Buddhas in Meditation*

The Buddhists conceive of the world as being composed of five cosmic elements which have no beginning and no end. These five elements are form (*Rupa*), sensation (*Vedanā*), name (*Sanjñā*), conformation (*samskāra*), and consciousness (*Vijñāna*). In Vajrayāna\* mythology, the cosmic elements are given an anthropomorphic form and made divinities, who, like the Hindu Hiranyagarbha

(Golden Germ), and the first Duality, create the entire world of form. As the Hindu Reality is non-manifest, undivided, without form, attributes, and timeless, the Vajrayāna Reality is Śūnya, One and Indivisible. In the same manner that the Hindu Brahman ultimately led to myriads of gods and goddesses, the Vajrayāna Śūnya gave birth to a polytheistic system. The Vajrayānists faced with the problem of reconciling precept to practice evolved the theory of the primordial god whom they called Ādi-Buddha or Vajradhara, the embodiment of Śūnya. The Buddhas of Meditation owe their origin to this first manifestation of Śūnyatā. This theory was of fairly late origin (10th century A.D.). The Ādi-Buddha is popularly worshipped in Nepal and Tibet. The Ādi-Buddha is said to have first manifested in Nepal as a flame of fire and Bodhisattva Mañjuśrī erected a temple over it known as the Svayambhū Chaitya.

When Ādi-Buddha is represented in an anthropomorphic form, he is called Vajradhara (Fig. 1) and appears alone or in close embrace called Yab-Yum. When alone, he is heavily ornamented and sits in the attitude of meditation, carrying a thunderbolt in the right hand and a bell in the left, the two hands being crossed across the chest. The thunderbolt is symbolic of the Ultimate Reality which is Śūnya. Like the thunderbolt, Śūnyatā is firm, sound, cannot be pierced or penetrated, cannot be burnt or destroyed. The bell represents Prajñā or wisdom, symbolic of sound which travels to all the nooks and corners of the universe. When Vajradhara is seated in

\* Northern Buddhism popular today in Nepal, Tibet, etc.



close embrace with his Śakti (Yab-Yum), the latter carries in her hands a knife (katrī) and a skull-cup. With the knife, Śakti destroys all Ignorance, while the skull-cup is symbolic of Oneness Absolute. This is a very popular form because the god and the goddess sitting in close embrace emphasize the fact that the distinction between Duality and Oneness Absolute is unreal.

The rich pantheon of the Vajrayāna Buddhists owes its origin to the concept of the doctrine of the Dhyāni Buddhas (Buddhas in Meditation), the Dhyāni Bodhisattvas with their female counterparts and their families. The Dhyāni Buddhas themselves do not participate in the act of creation. The Dhyāni Bodhisattvas along with their Śaktis who emanate from the Dhyāni Buddhas, are directly responsible for creation. In the Vajrayāna or Mantrayāna, the various deities are mere mantras (sounds) which, with their mystic power, take anthropomorphic forms. The Dhyāni Buddhas become heads of these families, and the entire pantheon is built round the theory of Kuleśas. The Dhyāni Bodhisattvas exhibit the miniature figures of their Kuleśas (parental Buddha). The *Sādhanamālā* text gives a list of these five parental Dhyāni Buddhas. They are Vairocana, Ratnasambhava, Amitābha, Amoghasiddhi, and Akṣobhya. They exhibit the teaching, boon-giving, meditation, protection and earth-touching attitudes of hands respectively.

The Dhyāni Buddhas emanate from the Ādi-Buddha, who is Svayambhū, i.e. Self-Existent. Since they originate from the Ādi-Buddha they are always engaged in peaceful meditation. To this group of five, sometimes a sixth one is added. He is Vajrasattva. The conception of the five Buddhas in Meditation was already known as early as A.D. 300. These symbolised the five cosmic elements. When another Dhyāni Buddha, Vajrasattva (Fig. 9, Pl. 160) was added to this number, he came to be regarded as the embodiment of all the elements collectively.

The Dhyāni Buddhas can be easily recognized. They sit on a lotus seat, in deep meditation, with their legs crossed in the adamant (vajraparyāṅka or vajrasana) pose with the soles of the feet turned upwards and the palms of the hands joined and facing upwards, with or without a bowl placed on the hands. The half-closed eyes point to the tip of the nose. The Buddhas may wear a tricivara, a close-fitting long robe extending from neck to ankles. The apparel is so

arranged that the right hand and right shoulder are left free for the functions of meditation. Each Dhyāni Buddha has his cognizance symbol and colour. The recognition symbols are: Amitābha—lotus; Akṣobhya—thunderbolt; Ratnasambhava—jewel; Amoghasiddhi—double thunderbolt, and Vairocana—discus. The consorts of the Dhyāni Buddhas and their Dhyāni Bodhisattvas have the same recognition symbols and colours as their Kuleśas.

#### AMITABHA (Fig. 21)

Amitābha is the oldest of the Buddhas in Meditation. He is presently in the Sukhāvati heaven, engaged in deep meditation. He presides silently over the present Kalpa (Age) which is the Bhadrakalpa. He is the embodiment of the cosmic element Samjñā (name). He symbolises the vital fluid and represents the summer season. (Red.)

#### AKṢOBHYA

The Nepal Buddhists regard him as the second Dhyāni Buddha. He embodies the cosmic element Vijñāna (consciousness), and represents the winter season, the faculty of hearing and the elements of Ether and Sound. (Blue.)

#### VAIROCANA

In Nepal, Vairocana is ranked first amongst the Dhyāni Buddhas and is placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the stupa. He symbolises the cosmic element of Rupa (form). He is also the embodiment of ideal knowledge. He represents the Hemanta season (Autumn). (White.)

#### AMOGHASIDDHI (Fig. 28)

He is regarded as the fifth Dhyāni Buddha. He embodies the cosmic element of Samskāra (conformation) and represents the rainy season. (Green.)

#### RATNASAMBHAVA (Fig. 8)

Ratnasambhava, the third of the Dhyāni Buddhas, is the originator of the Ratna (jewel) family. He embodies the cosmic element of Vedanā (sensation). He presides over the spring season. (Yellow.)

### MORTAL (MANUSHI) BUDDHAS (Pl. 159)

A belief in twenty-five Buddhas had become popular by the time of the Mauryas (4th century



B.C.). In the Dhāraṇī literature\* the Vajrayānists declared that 'the Buddhas who have been, are, and will be are more numerous than the grains of sand on the bank of the Ganges.'

The *Lalitavistara*, a Mahāyāna text, tells the story of the Buddha. It makes a mention of fifty-six Buddhas. It also mentions seven Maṇuṣī Buddhas. These are: Vipāśyin, Sikhi, Viśvabhū of the preceding Kalpa (Age) and Krakucchanda, Kanakamuni, Kaśyapa and Śākyamuni (Gautama) of the present Kalpa.

The conception of the five Mortal Buddhas, their corresponding Buddhas in Meditation, with their corresponding Bodhisattvas, became popular in India, Nepal, Tibet, China and Japan. The inward development of the Buddha is reflected in the development of certain outward marks. A Buddha acquires the thirty-two superior and eighty inferior auspicious outward marks (Lakṣaṇas) indicative of his spiritual attainments. The most important of the thirty-two superior marks is the full-sized uṣṇiṣa (the protuberance of the skull) which becomes the receptacle for the divine Manas (mind).

In sculptural form, the five Mortal Buddhas look alike. They sit cross-legged with the right hand placed on the lap touching the earth (the bhūmiśparśa mudrā). They wear monastic garments but do not bedeck themselves with ornaments. The right shoulder and breast or only the right breast are left bare; the other signs are the urva (a small, round protuberance above the bridge of the nose, the fourth of the thirty-two superior marks of a Buddha), the uṣṇiṣa and long-lobed ears.

### GAUTAMA ŚĀKYAMUNI (Pls. 156-158)

The most popular of all the Mortal Buddhas is Gautama, who is most widely represented in Indian Buddhist art. He appears in the sanctum sanctorum of Buddhist cave temples and also outside. In the shrines, he is seen either in the attitude of meditation or of teaching or of touching the earth. The various hand-poses of the Buddha are meaningful.

The following are his various hand-postures: (1) *Dhyāna*—the two hands are placed on the lap, one above the other, palms facing upwards.

This is the attitude of meditation. (2) *Bhūmiśparśa* or *Bhūmiśparśa*—Buddha's right hand touches the Earth, calling it to witness his victory over Māra, the Evil One, who is trying to wean Gautama away from the path of Truth. This is the earth-touching attitude. (3) *Dharmachakra*—this is symbolic of the preaching of the First Sermon, the Turning of the Wheel of Righteousness (*Dharmachakra-parivartana*). In this hand-gesture, both the hands are held near the breast. The tips of the index finger and thumb are joined and they touch one of the fingers of the left hand, the palm being turned inward.

### BODHISATTVAS

'Bodhi' is knowledge (Enlightenment) and 'Sattva' is essence. The Bodhisattva is one who has become enlightened, acquired the Bodhi knowledge, but who refuses to enter Nirvāṇa since he desires to guide all mankind to the True Path of the Buddha. The Bodhisattvas originated from the five Buddhas of Meditation (the Dhyāni Buddhas). These are Samantābhaddra, Vajrapāṇi, Ratnapāṇi, Padmapāṇi (Avalokiteśvara), and Viśvapāṇi, emanations of Vairocana, Akṣobhya, Ratnasambhava, Amiṭābha, and Amoghasiddhi respectively. There are many other Bodhisattvas in Mahāyāna Buddhism, too many to be mentioned here. According to Nepalese Buddhists, Ghantapāṇi is the Bodhisattva of Vajrasattva. Each of them has a female consort—his Śakti. In sculpture, the Śaktis appear alone or with their lords. The *Nīlupamayaogāvalī* mentions these Bodhisattvas along with their iconography.

The most popular of the Bodhisattvas are Avalokiteśvara and Mañjuśrī. They are very widely represented in India, Tibet, China and Japan.

MAITREYA (Fig. 10, Pls. 161-162)

Maitreya is the Future Buddha. He is not a Buddha yet. He is still in the Tuṣṭā Heavens biding his time as a Bodhisattva. As Śākyamuni Gautama had to pass through a long period of apprenticeship involving 550 existences as animal, man and god or 5000 existences; so Maitreya after a long period has come to the Tuṣṭā Heavens, where he will remain for 5000 years. He will be born as a Maṇuṣī Buddha, 5000 years after the death of Śākyamuni Gautama, when the fifth

\* A class of Tantric Buddhist literature.



world is created by the fifth Dhyāni Bodhisattva Viśvapāni. According to some, this period is 4000 years and according to Chinese tradition, it is of 3000 years. Śākyamuni Gautama, the fourth Manushi Buddha, went to the Tusitā Heavens to meet Maitreya and nominated him as his successor. During the period between the fourth Manushi Buddha Gautama and Maitreya, Avalokiteśvara is to rule over the earth. Since Maitreya is the Buddha-designate, all the Buddhist sages seek communion with him and seek his advice and sanction for their thoughts and deeds. That is how the great Tantric sage Asaṅga sought Maitreya out in the Tusitā Heavens by means of his supernatural powers. It was here that Maitreya initiated Asaṅga into the mysteries of Tantra. This legend gives the Tantrayāna a respectability which it could not have otherwise got. Maitreya is the only Bodhisattva who is respected alike by the Hinayanists and Mahāyanists. His image can be found from the times of the Gandhara school of sculpture down to modern times. Statues of him are found in Ceylon, Burma and Siam, usually in the company of the Buddha.

In Gandhara sculpture, Maitreya is shown seated as a Buddha with his long hair drawn up into a knot on his head forming the uṣṇiṣa, his hands in the dharmachakra mudrā or as a Bodhisattva, in which case he is shown standing with his long hair hanging over his shoulders. His hands are either in the vitarka or the varada mudrā. In Indian sculpture he is shown as a sitting or a standing Bodhisattva, sometimes alone, sometimes with other Bodhisattvas, sometimes as a dvārapāla (gate-keeper) outside Buddha shrines or as an attendant of the Buddha in the shrine. His hair is arranged mitre-shaped. His hands are not always in the dharmachakra mudrā, says Getty. Sometimes he is shown with a jaṭā mukuṭa, sometimes with a kiriṭa mukuṭa. Sometimes the mukuṭa (crown) is very decorative and ornamental. In the left hand he holds a kalaśa (vase) which is round in shape. In Gandhara sculpture the kalaśa is oval or pointed in shape. Getty says that Maitreya was known in Central Asia in the 5th century A.D. A temple in Turfan of A.D. 469 is dedicated to him. In Java, he appears seated in Chandi Mendut. His hands are in the dharmachakra mudrā. In early Mongolian images he is shown standing, his hands in the vitarka or varada mudrā, with one hand holding the stems of flowers called Champā. In bronzes and

sculptures, this looks like a lotus. In Tibet he is depicted both as Buddha and Bodhisattva. As Buddha he has short curly hair, uṣṇiṣa, urna and long-lobed ears. He wears the monastic garment with the right shoulder bare and the hands in the dharmachakra mudrā. His legs, however, are in the pralambapāda āsana (seated with both legs pendant) and not in the padmāsana. As Bodhisattva he is usually shown seated in pralambapāda, but sometimes in paryāṅka (cross-legged). He is represented as an Indian prince with all the Bodhisattva ornaments, and in the crown is generally a stupa-shaped ornament which is his distinctive mark, but he may be without a crown and have the stupa in his hair. Like Avalokiteśvara, he too may have an ajina (deer-skin) over his left shoulder. His hands are in vitarka or varada poses and he carries either the kalaśa and chakra, which rest on lotus flowers. "It is in this attitude that he is represented in the group of eight Bodhisattvas," says Getty. As Maitreya, he is depicted with an ajina over his left shoulder, wearing a jaṭā mukuṭa, his hands in the vitarka or the varada pose. He holds a kalaśa (vase) in one hand and a champā flower which looks like a lotus in another hand. Without the chaitya in his crown, he is difficult to distinguish from Avalokiteśvara. The two important cognizances of Maitreya are the chaitya in his head-dress and the cloth wound round his waist and tied on the left side with the ends falling to the feet. But even these may be missing. Grundwedel says that such sculptures should be identified with Maitreya since he is a more popular deity than Avalokiteśvara. At Ellora, however, in such cases, the sculpture should be identified with Avalokiteśvara, since here he is the more popular of the two deities. The stupa which Maitreya wears in his crown is symbolic of the stupa in the mount Kukkuṭapāda near Bodhi Gaya where the third Manushi Buddha lies. Kaśyapa, the third Manushi Buddha, who ruled in the Kalpa preceding that of Śākyamuni Gautama, lived on earth for 20,000 years. He nominated Śākyamuni as his successor. This Kaśyapa is believed to have been buried in the mount Kukkuṭapāda. When Maitreya descends to the Earth as the fifth Manushi Buddha, he will first go to this mountain, which will open as if by magic. Kaśyapa will then come forth from the depths of the mountain and give to Maitreya the garments of a Buddha. The Gandhara school represents Maitreya in very large size. Yuan Chwang (7th century A.D.) describes a Maitreya



statue made of wood, which he saw at Dardū, North Punjab, as being 100 feet in height. It was done by an artist who by a miracle visited the Tūṣitā Heavens, to study his anatomy and features. In the Ellora sculptures, he exhibits the stupa in his crown and carries a Nāgakeśara flower in one hand.

The Chinese, who claim to have seen Maitreya, tell us that he is thirty feet tall. But in sculpture they make him taller still. Getty tells us of two Chinese statues one of which was 40' and the other 70' in height.

Maitreya is found in a triad with Gautama and Avalokiteśvara. Getty says that he is sometimes accompanied by Kurukullā and Bhṛkuṭi.

#### ✓ AVALOKITEŚVARA (PADMAPĀNI) (Pls. 163-170, 177)

Avalokiteśvara is the most popular of the Buddhist Bodhisattvas. Most of the early Dhāraṇīs invoke him and seek refuge in him. His abode is Potalaka, which is placed in the south near Amara-vati. The Tibetan work *Mañi Kambum* relates the story of his birth. 'Once upon a time, Amitābha, after giving himself up to earnest meditation caused a white ray of light to issue from his right eye, which brought Padmapāni (Avalokiteśvara) Bodhisattva into existence. Amitābha blessed him, whereupon the Bodhisattva brought forth the prayer: *Oṃ Mañi Padme Hūm*. Oh! the jewel (of creation) is in the lotus!'

Avalokiteśvara is thus the spiritual son of the Dhyāni Buddha Amitābha and his Śakti Pāṇḍarā. Along with them he presides over the present Kalpa, which is the Bhadrakalpa. He is to rule over the universe during the period between the Mahāparinirvāṇa of the Maṇuṣi Buddha Gautama and the appearance of the future Buddha, Maitreya. Five thousand years after the death of Gautama Buddha, Maitreya will appear as a Maṇuṣi Buddha in the fifth world, which will be created by Viśvapāni (fifth Dhyāni Bodhisattva). That is one reason for his popularity. The *Guna Kāraṇḍavyūha* (a fourth century text) relates how he refuses Nirvāṇa, until all human beings are in possession of the Bodhi knowledge. He assumes protean manifestations of divinity. The text mentions him as the first god to issue out of the primordial Buddha (Ādi-Buddha) who creates the universe.

The conception of Avalokiteśvara is datable to the Aśoka period. In the work *Mahāvastu Avadāna*, the Mahāsaṅghikas describe him as the

'Bhagvan who takes the form of a Bodhisattva, whose duty is to look around (Avalokita) for the sake of instructing the people and for their constant welfare and happiness.' This conception of the Bodhisattva Avalokita took concrete form in the *Amitāyus Sūtra* or the *Sukhāvatī Vyūha*, a work datable to A.D. 100. The *Guna Kāraṇḍavyūha* narrates the story of the creation of the fourth world by Padmapāni (a form of Avalokiteśvara). 'From between his (Padmapāni's) shoulder sprang Brahmā; from his two eyes, the Sun and the Moon; from his mouth the air; from his teeth, Sarasvatī; from his belly, Varuṇa; from his knees, Lakṣmī; from his navel, water; from the roots of his hair, the Indras and the devatas.'

Avalokiteśvara is Avalokita (looking on), Iśvara (lord). His symbols are a mālā (rosary) and a padma (a pink lotus). His mantra is the famous 'Oṃ Mañi Padme hūm!'. In the *Kāraṇḍavyūha*, no reference is made to Tārā. Maheśvara and Umā, however, are mentioned as his devotees. Avalokiteśvara himself is mentioned as a devotee of Vairocana. The mantra of Avalokiteśvara is his innermost core (Hṛdaṅga) and the quintessence of all knowledge (including the Navāṅga, nine divisions of the *Triptaka*) and was known as the Śadaksari-mahāvīdyārājñī.

Avalokiteśvara, being the compassionate Bodhisattva, takes numerous forms to lead people to Nirvāṇa. A Buddhist legend refers to his 333 incarnations. He manifests himself repeatedly for the purpose of saving mankind. His worship became popular in Northern India in the 3rd century A.D. and by the 7th century, he became the most popular of the Bodhisattvas. Fa-hien and Yuan Chwang speak of him with great reverence.

The *Sādhanaśālā* describes fifteen different varieties of Avalokiteśvara, in thirty-eight sādhanas (descriptive hymns). But these by no means exhaust all his forms. In the Macchandar Vahal of Kathmandu (Nepal), 108 different forms of him are painted. Some of these forms are described in the Tables that follow.

Tārā (Fig. 5), who accompanies him in later sculptures, is first mentioned in the *Guhyaśālā* (a first century text). It is, however, in the *Mañjuśrīmūla-kalpa* that Tārās like Bhṛkuṭi, Locanā, Māmaki, Pāṇḍaravāsini, etc., are mentioned. They are described as Mahāmudrās (great aids for yoga). Tārā is described as the Vidyārājñī who is full of compassion and given to the alleviation of sufferings of worldly beings. The *Mahāpratyāṅgira*,



1 Brahmā, Halebid



2 Brahmā, Halebid



3 Brahmā, Cave 16  
(Kailāsa), Ellora



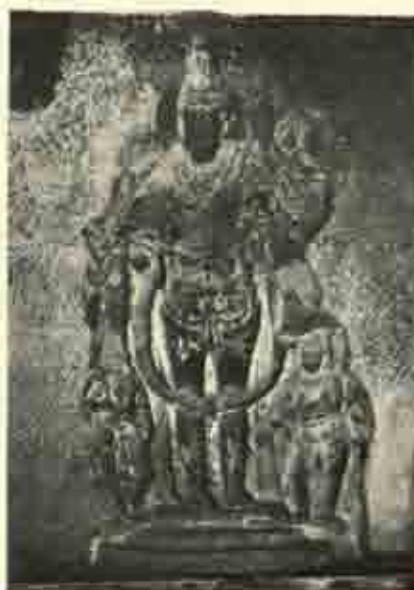
4 Brahmā,  
Cave 16  
(Kailāsa),  
Ellora



5 Viṣṇu, Cave 16  
(Kailāsa), Ellora



6 Viṣṇu, Cave  
16 (Kailāsa),  
Ellora



7 Vishnu on  
Garuda.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



8 Vishnu.  
Jaggi,  
Osmanabad

9 Vishnu on Garuda.  
Cave 16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



10 Srinivasa. Bronze.  
Tanjore District

11 Vishnu  
as Bhuvanaraha.  
Cave 11, Ellora



12 Vishnu  
as Bhuvanaraha.  
Cave 2, Badami



13 Vishnu  
as Bhuvārāha.  
Durgā Temple,  
Aihole



14 Vishnu  
as Bhuvārāha.  
Cave 3, Badami



15 Vishnu as  
Narasimha.  
Halebid



16 Vishnu as  
Narasimha  
killing Hiranyaka-  
shipu. Huchhapayya  
Gudi, Aihole



17 Vishnu as  
Narasimha killing  
Hiranyakashipu.  
Virupāksha  
Temple,  
Pattadakal



18 Vishnu as  
Narasimha killing  
Hiranyaka-  
shipu.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora





19

Vishnu as  
Narasimha  
killing  
Hiranya-  
kashipu.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



20

Vishnu as  
Narasimha,  
Durgā Temple,  
Aihole

21

Vāmana  
incarna-  
tion of  
Vishnu.  
Cave 2,  
Badami

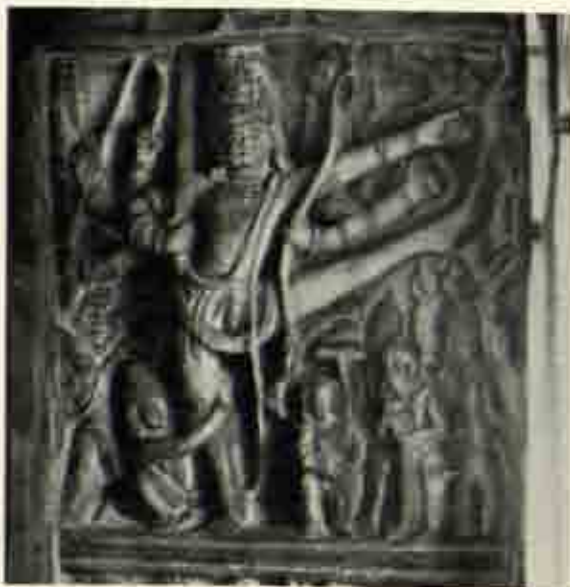


22

Vishnu as  
Trivikra-  
ma, Cave  
15, Ellora

23

Vishnu as  
Vāmana and  
Trivikrama.  
Cave 3,  
Badami



24

Vishnu as Vāmana and Trivikrama, Cave 2, Badami.

25

Rāma. Bronze.  
(Courtesy, Government Museum,  
Madras)



26

Sītā. Bronze.  
(Courtesy, Government  
Museum, Madras)



27

Sītā. Bronze.  
(Courtesy, Government Museum,  
Madras)



28

Hanumāna. Bronze.  
(Courtesy, Government Museum,  
Madras)



29

Kṛishna. Bronze.  
(Courtesy, Government Museum,  
Madras)



30

Satyabhāmā. Bronze. (Courtesy,  
Government Museum, Madras)





31 Kirtārjuna-mūrti  
of Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora



32 Kirtārjuna-mūrti  
of Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora

33

Rāva-  
nānugraha-  
mūrti. Cave  
16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



34

Rāvanānugraha-  
mūrti. Virupāksha  
Temple, Pattadakal

35

Rāvanānugraha-  
mūrti. Halebidu



36

Rāvanā-  
nugraha-  
mūrti.  
Cave 14,  
Ellora



37

Rāvaṇā-  
nugraha-  
mūrti, Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



38

Līṅodbhava-  
mūrti of  
Śiva, Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



39

Līṅodbhava-mūrti of Śiva, Cave 15, Ellora



40

Līṅod-  
bhava-mūrti  
of Śiva.  
(Courtesy,  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)

41

Śiva as Bhairava,  
with sixteen hands,  
Halebid



42

Śiva as Bhairava,  
Bronze. (Courtesy,  
Government Museum,  
Madras)





43 Gajāsura-saṁhāra-mūrti of Śiva, Cave 16 (Kailāsa), Ellora



44 Gajāsura-saṁhāra-mūrti of Śiva, Virupākṣa Temple, Pattadakal

45

Gajāsura-saṁhāra-mūrti of Śiva, Halebidu



46

Tripurāntaka-mūrti of Śiva, Cave 16 (Kailāsa), Ellora



47, 48 Tripurāntaka-mūrti of Śiva, Cave 16 (Kailāsa), Ellora



49

Tripurāntaka-mūrti of  
Śiva. Halebid



50

Kālārī-  
mūrti of  
Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



51

Left, Kālārī-  
mūrti of Śiva,  
Cave 15,  
Ellora



52

Right, Kālārī-  
mūrti of  
Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora

53

Left, Kālārī-  
mūrti of Śiva,  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora



54

Right, Andha-  
kāśura-vadha-  
mūrti of Śiva.  
Cave 29, Ellora





55 Andhakāsura-  
vadha-mūrti  
of Śiva.  
Halebid



56 Andhakāsura-  
vadha-mūrti  
of Śiva.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



57 *Left*, Andhakā-  
sura-vadha-  
mūrti of Śiva.  
Cave 15, Ellora

58 *Right*, Gangā-  
dhara-mūrti of  
Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora



59 *Left*, Gangā-  
dhara-mūrti of  
Śiva. Rāvana-  
phadi Cave,  
Aihole

60 *Right*, Ardha-  
nārīyvara. Cave  
1, Elephanta



61

Ardhanārīśvara. Bronze.  
(Courtesy,  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



62

Ardhanārīśvara. Durgā  
Temple, Aihole



63

Ardha-  
nārīśvara.  
Sanga-  
meshwara  
Temple,  
Mahakuta,  
Mysore



64

Ardha-  
nārīśvara.  
Cave 1,  
Badami



65

Harihara.  
Sangamesh-  
vara Temple,  
Mahakuta,  
Mysore



66

Harihara.  
Cave 3,  
Badami





67

Kalyāṇa-  
sundara-  
mūrti of  
Śiva. Cave  
16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



68

Kalyāṇa-  
sundara-  
mūrti of  
Śiva. Cave 1,  
Elephanta



69

Kalyāṇa-  
sundara-mūrti  
of Śiva. Cave 1,  
Elephanta



70A



70B



70C



70 A, B, C. Kalyāṇasundara-mūrti of Śiva.  
Cave 21, Ellora



71

Vishāpaharavā-  
mūrti of  
Śiva. Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



72

Vishāpaharavā-  
mūrti of Śiva.  
Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



73

*Left,* Vishāpa-  
haravā-mūrti  
of Śiva.  
Huchhapayya  
Matha, Aihole

74

*Right,* Jñāna-  
Dakṣiṇa-mūrti  
of Śiva.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



75

Vyākṣhāna-  
Dakṣiṇa-  
mūrti of  
Śiva.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



76

Śiva Natarāja.  
Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



77

Śiva Natarāja.  
Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



78

Śiva  
Natarāja.  
Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



79

Śiva  
Natarāja.  
Bronze.  
(*Courtesy,*  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



80

Śiva  
as Mahāyogi.  
Cave 16  
(Kailāsa),  
Ellora



81

Kārtti-  
keya on  
peacock.  
Halebid



82

Subrahmaṇya  
or Kārttikeya.  
Cave 21, Ellora





83

Subrahmanya  
or Kārttikeya.  
Cave 1,  
Badami



84

Subrahmanya  
or Kārttikeya.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



85

Left, Skanda  
or Kārttikeya.  
Huchimalli-  
gudi, Aihole

86

Right, Subrah-  
manya, Bronze.  
(Courtesy,  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



87

Standing  
Gayeśa.  
Bronze.  
(Courtesy,  
Government  
Museum,  
Madras)



88

Sitting  
Gayeśa,  
Halebid





89, 90

Nritta-  
Gaopati,  
or Ganesa.  
Halebid



91 Nritta-Gaopati on left, Mahishamardini on right, Halebid



92 Indra on elephant Airavata, Halebid



93 Left, Indra  
on elephant  
Airavata.  
Cave 3,  
Badami

94 Right, Agni  
on Ram.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora

95

Varūṇa on Makara.  
Cave 16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



96

Vāyū on śaṅga.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



97

Sūrya. Cave  
16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



98

Sarasvatī.  
Halebid



99

Sarasvatī.  
Halebid



100

Nṛtta-  
Sarasvatī  
(Dancing  
Sarasvatī).  
Halebid





101

*Nritta-Sarasvati*  
(Dancing  
Sarasvati).  
Halebid



102

*Nritta-Sarasvati*  
(Dancing  
Sarasvati).  
Halebid



103

*Left, Nritta-Sarasvati*  
(Dancing  
Sarasvati). Halebid



104

*Right, Mahishamardini.* Ravana-  
phadi Cave, Aihole



105

*Left, Mahishamardini.* Cave  
21, Ellora

106

*Right, Mahishamardini with*  
*Guardians of*  
*the Quarters.*  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora





107

Mahisha-  
mardini.  
Halebid



108

Mahisha-  
mardini.  
Halebid



109

*Left*, Mahisha-  
mardini. Cave  
16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



110

*Right*, Lakshmi  
or Śrī. Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



111

*Left*, Vishnu  
with Bhū and  
Lakshmi.  
Halebid



112

*Right*, Varada-  
rāja Vishnu with  
Śrī and Bhū.  
Bronze. (Court-  
esy, Govern-  
ment Museum,  
Madras)



113

Vishnu with  
Lakshmi.  
Halebid



115 Sapta-mātrikas. (L to R) 1, Chāmundā; 2, 7; 3,  
Māheshvari. Ellora

114

Mātrika slab in Galagnath  
Temple, Aihole. (L to R),  
1, Virabhadra; 2, Brah-  
māni; 3, Māheshvari; 4,  
Kaumāri; 5, Vaisṇavi;  
6, Vārāhi; 7, Indrāni; 8,  
Chāmundā



116 Mātrikas. Cave 14, Ellora



117 Fragment of Mātrika slab. Virupāksha Temple, Aihole



118

Mātrikas.  
Ravana-phadi,  
Aihole



119

Mātrikas.  
Ravana-phadi,  
Aihole



120

River-goddess  
Gangā on Makara.  
Cave 21, Ellora



121

River-goddess Gangā  
on Makara. Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora



122

River-goddess  
Gangā on  
Makara. Lan-  
keśvara shrine.  
Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora



123

River-goddess Yamunā  
on tortoise. Cave 16  
(Kailasa), Ellora





124

River-goddess  
Yamunā  
on tortoise.  
Lankeśvara  
shrine. Cave  
16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



125

River-goddess  
Sarassvatī on lotus,  
Cave 16 (Kailasa),  
Ellora



126

Sādhārāṇa Śiva.  
Halebid



127

Sādhārāṇa  
Śiva. Halebid



128

Sādhārāṇa Śiva.  
Halebid



129

Sādhārāṇa  
Śiva. Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



130

Sādhārana  
Śiva, Cave 16  
(Kailasa),  
Ellora



131

Urdhva-līṅga  
Śiva, Śaṅgama-  
vara Temple,  
Mahakuta



132

Umā-sahita-Śiva, Cave 21, Ellora



133

Umā-sahita-Śiva, Cave 21, Ellora



134

Umā-sahita-Śiva, Cave 14, Ellora



135

Ravaṇānugraha-mūrti, Cave 29, Ellora





136 *Ālīṅgana-mūrti of Śiva, Halebidu*



137 *Ālīṅgana-mūrti of Śiva, Halebidu*



138 *Ālīṅgana-mūrti of Śiva, Halebidu*



139 *Mahēśa-mūrti, Elephanta*





140 Śiva dancing the Katisama. Cave 21, Ellora



141 Śiva dancing the Lalitam. Cave 15, Ellora



142 Śiva dancing the Lalitam. Cave 14, Ellora



143 Śiva dancing the Lalitam. Halebid



144 Śiva dancing the Chaturam. Cave 1, Badami



145 Śiva dancing the Talasamsphoṭitam. Vinupākṣa Temple, Pattadakal



146 Śiva as Nṛtta-mūrti dancing the Talasamsphoṭitam. Nilanga, Osmanabad



147 Sheshashāhi Viṣṇu. Cave 15, Ellora





148 Sheshashayi-Vishnu. Cave 16 (Kailasa), Ellora



149 Vishnu-virāsana-mūrti. Cave 3, Badami



150 Vishnu as Venugopāla. Halebid



151 *Right, Vishnu as Venugopāla; left, Vatuka-Bhairava-Siva. Halebid*





152 Kāliya-mardaka Kṛṣṇa (Courtesy,  
Government Museum, Madras)



153 Govardhanadhara Kṛṣṇa. Halebid



154 Mahākālī  
Bronzes (Courtesy, Government Museum, Madras)



155 Bhadrakālī

156

Buddha.  
Cave 10,  
Ellora



157

Buddha in  
Shrine, Cave 1,  
Ajanta



158

Buddha  
in teach-  
ing atti-  
tude  
flanked  
by Bodhi-  
sattvas.  
Cave 2,  
Ellora



159. Mānushi Buddhas. Cave 12, Ellora

160

Vajrasattva on  
pilaster. Cave 12,  
Ellora



161

Maitreya. Cave 6, Ellora





162

Maitreya.  
Cave 12,  
Ellora



163

Padmapāñi as  
Śaḍakṣari-Lokeśvara. Cave 8, Ellora



164

Avalokiteśvara as  
Śaḍakṣari-Lokeśvara.  
Cave 1, Ellora



165

Avalokiteśvara  
with Ārya-  
Sarasvatī.  
Cave 10, Ellora



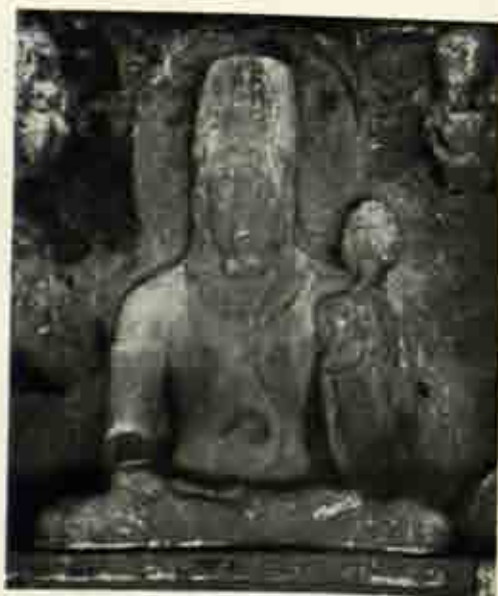
166

Avalokiteśvara  
as Rakta-  
Lokeśvara.  
Cave 4, Ellora



167

Avalokiteśvara as  
Rakta-  
Lokeśvara.  
Cave 11,  
Ellora







168 Avalokiteśvara as Raktalokeśvara. Cave 12, Ellora



169 Left, Avalokiteśvara with Tārā. Right, Cundā. Cave 10, Ellora

170 Litany of Avalokiteśvara. Cave 7, Aurangabad



171 Mañjuśrī as Manjuvāra. Cave 10, Ellora



172 Mañjuśrī as Siddhaikavīra. Cave 12, Ellora



173 Vajrapāṇi. Fresco. Cave 1, Ajanta

174

Vajrapāṇi. Cave 12,  
Ellora



175

Vajrapāṇi with  
four hands.  
Cave 10, Ellora



176

Jñānakeśu.  
Cave 12,  
Ellora



177

Bodhisattva attendants.  
*L to R*, Avalokiteśvara-Lokanātha, Jñānakeśu,  
Amoghadārsin, Cave 12, Ellora

179

Jambhala.  
Cave 12,  
Ellora



178

Bodhisattva attendants. *L to R*, Vajragarbha, 7,  
Surāṅgama (?), Cave 12, Ellora





180 *L to R, Vajradhātīśvarī, ?, Cundā. Cave 12, Ellora*



181 *L to R, Jāṅgullī, Mahāmāyūrī, Vasudhārā. Cave 12, Ellora*



182 *L to R, Bhṛkufī, Pāṇḍarā, Tārā. Cave 12, Ellora*



183  
Cundā  
with  
six arms.  
Cave 10,  
Ellora



184  
Four-  
handed  
Cundā.  
Cave 12,  
Ellora



185 *Hārītī and Pāṇḍikā. Cave 2 Ajanta*



186

Hārītī,  
Cave 2,  
Ajanta



187

Pāñcika,  
Cave 2,  
Ajanta



188

Tārā, Cave 6,  
Ellora



189

Tārā, Cave 12,  
Ellora



190

Mahāmāyūrī,  
Cave 8, Ellora



191

Bhīṣṇī, Cave  
10, Ellora





192

*Left, Mahāvīra.  
Cave 31,  
Ellora*



193

*Right, Yaksha  
Mātanga and  
a Jina. Cave 4,  
Badami*

194

*Left,  
Gommatesvara.  
Cave 31, Ellora*



195

*Right,  
Pārśvanātha.  
Cave 4, Badami*



196

*Yaksha Mātanga.  
Cave 32, Ellora*



197

*Yakshi  
Siddhayikā,  
Cave 32, Ellora*





198 Chakresvari, Cave 31, Ellora



199 Prajnapati (?), Cave 32, Ellora



200 Bhrikuti or Jvalamālini, Cave 32, Ellora



201 Jina figures with Padmasvari below, Cave 4, Badami



*dhāraṇī*, for the first time elevates Tārā to the position of the highest deity. This work, found in Central Asia, describes her as of 'white colour' and noble mien, wearing a garland of vajras, holding a vajra in her hand, and having the figure of Vairocana on her crown. It is from the 7th century A.D. onwards that we find the exuberance of Tārā-stotras,\* and the goddess Tārā raised to the motherhood of all Buddhas and made a companion of Avalokiteśvara, the personification of love (*maitrī*) and compassion (*karuṇā*).

*The Litany of Avalokiteśvara* (Pl. 170)

Avalokiteśvara is the Bodhisattva who presides over the present Kalpa. He refuses to accept Nirvāṇa since he considers such acceptance selfish, in view of the ignorance of the great majority of the people who have not yet attained that stage. He makes a deliberate choice and remains in this world with a view to guiding all men to the True Path. He will not accept Nirvāṇa till they attain it. This sacrifice he makes out of his great compassion and love for mankind. Their misery is his misery. He sheds tears out of his great sorrow. It is in his nature, therefore, to rush to the succour of those who are in distress and who need his help. He is the Saviour, the Deliverer. In times of danger, he is the one to be invoked. 'All Hail! great compassionate Padmapāṇi Bodhisattva, Mahāsattva! From the devouring fire, merciful one, deliver us; from the sword of the enemy, merciful Lord, deliver us! From captivity and slavery, merciful one, deliver us! From shipwreck, compassionate Lord, deliver us! From wild beasts, poisonous reptiles and enraged animals, great compassionate Lord, deliver us! From disease and death, great compassionate Lord, deliver us! Hail! Padmapāṇi Bodhisattva! Hail! Amitābha Buddha!'

It is interesting to note that this invocation offered to Padmapāṇi Avalokiteśvara refers to dangers which were normally faced by traders and monks in olden days.

The Buddha's love for the trading class is well-known. The Buddha had a great regard for the trading community since they hazarded so much, risked so much to make available to the people what was not easily available to them. There was no ordeal they were not required to face in their efforts to render service to mankind. They brought

things from far off countries and travelled by every means of conveyance then known to man. The sea was not always friendly. Sometimes it would run into a violent temper and lash out at the ships, tossing them about. Then the traders, faced with the grim prospect of getting drowned, would invoke Padmapāṇi Bodhisattva to their rescue. Sometimes the traders and monks landed in hostile lands and were captured and enslaved. Sometimes they were put to the sword by an enraged enemy. In times like these, only the merciful Bodhisattva could come to their succour.

It is obvious, therefore, that this prayer to Padmapāṇi was the prayer of traders and bhikkus (Buddhist monks). Since the fourth century A.D. or so the custom arose to invoke this god who presides over the present Kalpa. A body of traders would, therefore, commission a *sthapati* (priest-architect) or a *taksaka* (sculptor) to carve this prayer on a rock face or on the wall of a chaitya, to ensure a safe journey through hostile jungles, hostile lands and a hostile sea. That is why we see this prayer carved on the various rock-temples of Western India.

MAÑJUŚRĪ (Fig. 29, Pls. 171-172)

Bodhisattva Mañjuśrī is the oldest of the Buddhist Bodhisattvas. He is assigned a place of pride in the Buddhist pantheon. His worship is supposed to confer upon the *Sādhaka* (disciple), wisdom, retentive memory, intelligence and eloquence. His name first occurs in the *Mañjuśrīmūlakalpa* and then in the *Gaḥyasaṃajātanta*. His name also appears in the *Sukhāvart Vyūha*, in its smaller recension which was translated into Chinese between A.D. 384 and 417. Later Buddhist works refer to him very frequently. His images are found in the sculptures of Sarnath, Magadha, Bengal, Nepal and other places.

The Buddhist work *Syāmbhū Purāṇa* contends that Mañjuśrī originally belonged to China, where he was living on the mount *Pañchasiṃha* (the Hill of Five Peaks) as a saint with a big following. Divine intuition told him of the Ādi-Buddha's manifestation as a flame of fire on a lotus in the *Kālihrada* in Nepal, where he repaired forthwith, with his two wives, *Kelvinī* and *Upakeśinī*, his king *Dharmakara* and other disciples. To reach the flame in the waters of the lake, he cut with his sword the southern barrier of hills and the water

\* Hymns in praise of Tārā.



rushed through the opening. The land thus left dry is the Nepal Valley and the waters of the river Bāghmati flow through this opening.

Chinese legend attributes his manifestation at Pañchāsira in the Shansi province to the instruction received by him from Gautama Buddha. To bring him into existence, Buddha emitted a ray from his forehead which pierced a jambu-tree. A lotus sprang from the tree and 'from the interior of the flower was born the prince of sages, Ārya Mañjuśrī. His colour was yellow; he had one face and two arms; in the right hand he brandished the Sword of Wisdom; in his left, he carried a book on a lotus; he was endowed with the superior and inferior marks of beauty; he was covered with many ornaments, and he was resplendent.' Some call him the founder of civilization in Nepal. The first day of the year is dedicated to him. He is regarded as the God of Agriculture or as the Celestial Architect. He is the God of Science and with his Sword of Wisdom, destroys darkness and ignorance. Mañjuśrī takes numerous forms. These are described in the Tables which follow the text.

#### VAJRAPĀṆĪ (Pls. 173-175)

Vajrapāṇī belongs to the Vajra family of the Kuleśa Akṣobhya. He is the spiritual son of the Dhyaṇi Buddha Akṣobhya and his Śakti Māmaki. His mantra is: 'Om! Vajrapāṇī hūm!' He is either shown seated or standing. His cognizance is the vajra (thunderbolt) which he carries and which is usually held over a lotus (page 19). The thunderbolt is also held directly in the hand.

He is one of the eight principal Bodhisattvas mentioned in the *Sādhanamālā*. He is thus described in the *Sādhana* (a prayer, which also describes the deity) of Lokanātha:

'Vajrapāṇī is of white colour, carries the vajra in one hand and displays the abhaya mudrā in the other.'

He is widely represented in Tibet and China.

Early Buddhist legend refers to him as a minor deity. He is also identified with Śakra or Indra. He is said to have been present at the birth of the Buddha in the Lumbini Gardens along with Brahmā, the First of the Hindu Triad.

He is the protector of the Nāgas and assumes the Garuḍa (Eagle) form to protect them. In Japanese paintings of the Buddha's Mahāparinirvāṇa (the final passing away), he is always shown as red.

Vajrapāṇī rarely appears alone. He is represented as a chauri-bearer attendant of the Buddha or stands as a dvārapāla (door-guardian) outside Buddha shrines. When he does so appear, he is always shown on the left of the Buddha, never on the right. Sometimes, he appears with Amitāyus (Mañjuśrī) and Padmapāṇī. In Nepalese miniatures, he is shown either on the left or the right of Tārā. He is represented standing with his legs crossed and holding a vajra. In Gandhara sculptures, he accompanies the Buddha, holding a primitive form of vajra, with his legs crossed. Getty says that in Pander's Pantheon, he is represented seated with the legs locked, balancing the thunderbolt on his hands which lie in the meditation mudrā on his lap. He may also be seen making the bhūmisparśa mudrā, the thunderbolt being balanced on the palm of his left hand, on his lap. Vajrapāṇī was also worshipped in Cambodia. At Bat Cum, in A.D. 953, three sanctuaries were dedicated to the triad of the Buddha, Prajñāpāramitā and Vajrapāṇī.

#### JAMBHALA (Pl. 179)

Jambhala is the Buddhist god of Wealth. He is the Buddhist Kubera. The Kubera of the Hindus is the son of the sage Viśravaṇa and is, therefore, known as Vaiśravaṇa. He practised severe austerities for a thousand years and Brahmā made him god of Wealth, and gave him Lanka (Ceylon) as his capital. The *Mahābhārata* tells us that he was also presented with the aerial car Puṣpaka, which was very large and 'moved at the owner's will at marvellous speed.'

Kubera was also worshipped by the Buddhists. He became a Lokapāla (guardian of the quarter). The Nepalese statues show him holding a mongoose. But in many Indian images he is shown holding a long narrow bag of gold. In the Tibetan images, Jambhala holds a mongoose. The Lamas claim that the mongoose symbolises Kubera's victory over the Nāgas, the guardians of the treasures. The nakula, however, is merely a bag made of the skin of a mongoose. Oldenburg tells us that in Java the long narrow bag is rarely finished by the head of a mongoose as it is in Magadha, but the neck is left open and it looks like a mouth.

Kubera has two forms: Yi-dam and Dharma-pāla. As the former, he is called Jambhala, probably because in this form, he carries the



Jambhara (lemon) in the right hand. In the left hand, he holds the mongoose vomiting jewels. He is always shown pot-bellied and wears rich ornaments. Both these are indicative of prosperity. One of his legs is usually pendant and rests on a lotus flower. I have chosen to style the Buddhist god of Wealth Jambhala for two reasons. Firstly, because he holds the Jambhara in the right hand according to the *Sādhnamālā*.

The *Sādhnamālā* refers to him as Jambhala, and a number of *Sādhana*s (prayers) are devoted to him. The fact that 16 *Sādhana*s are devoted to him is indicative of his popularity. One *Sādhana* describes him thus:

'Meditate upon the Bhagvan Jambhala of golden complexion, pot-bellied, adorned with all ornaments, holding a *nakula* in the left hand and a citrus fruit in the right and who bears the image of Ratnasambhava in his crown and holds the lotus and the rosary.'

The mongoose that Jambhala carries is supposed to be the receptacle of all the treasures, and when Jambhala presses the two sides of him, he vomits out jewels.

A Nepalese statue of Jambhala shows him seated in the *savya-lalitāsana* (with right leg pendant). He carries a citron in the right hand and a pot of gold in the left. He is pot-bellied and wears rich ornaments. The Vikrampur Jambhala shows him seated in the *savya-lalitāsana*. He is pot-bellied. He holds a citron in the right hand and a mongoose in the left. Ellora has eight sculptures of him in Cave Nos. 2, 6, 10, 11 and 12.

## THE BUDDHA ŚAKTIS

The doctrine of the Dhyāni Buddhas is a Vajrayāna product. The Northern Buddhists promulgated the doctrine of the five Skandhas: Rūpa, Vedanā, Saṃjñā, Saṃskāra, and Vijñāna—which are without beginning and without end. Vajrayāna deified the Skandhas and made of them Dhyāni Buddhas. Each of these raised a Kula with the help of his Śakti. Each of these has been given a cognizance. These are naturally of great importance for the study of their iconography. The symbols of the Kuleśas are shared by their Śaktis. Amitābha belongs to the Lotus family. Therefore, his Śakti Pāṇḍarā (Fig. 2) and his Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara both display the lotus symbol; Akṣobhya is of the Vajra family

and his Śakti Māmaki (Fig. 3) and his Dhyāni Bodhisattva Vajrapāṇi both display the Vajra symbol; Vairocana whose recognition symbol is the discus, shares it with his Śakti Locanā (Fig. 4) and his Bodhisattva Samantabhadra; Amoghasiddhi has the viśva-vajra as his symbol and so has his Śakti Tārā (Fig. 5) and his Bodhisattva Viśvāpāṇi. Ratnasambhava has the jewel symbol and so has his Śakti Vajradhātīśvarī (Fig. 6, Pl. 180). About the Śaktis, there seems to be some controversy. Vajradhātīśvarī is regarded as the Śakti of Vairocana by many scholars. Gordon considers Vajradhātīśvarī to be the Śakti of Vairocana, Locanā of Akṣobhya, and Māmaki, that of Ratnasambhava. As regards Pāṇḍarā and Tārā, there seems to be an agreement between the two schools.

These Dhyāni Buddha Śaktis are rarely carved. In the Ellora Caves, they appear only in Cave No. 12. They are also carved in Cave No. 7 at Aurangabad.

## JĀṆGULI (MANASĀ) (Fig. 36, Pl. 181)

The Buddhist serpent goddess Jāṅguli can be recognized by the serpent which decorates her head-dress, the *sarpa-kunḍalas* (coiled cobra earrings) and the *sarpa-mekhala* (serpent waist-band), etc. She can cure snake-bites and even prevent them. The *Sādhnamālā* says that she is as old as the Buddha himself. According to Mahāyāna texts, the secret of Jāṅguli and the mantra (spell) of her worship are said to have been imparted to Ananda by Lord Buddha himself. Four *Sādhana*s give elaborate mantras for the extraction of poison from the snake-bitten. Her images are found in Tibet and China.

The worshipper should mediate himself as Ārya Jāṅguli who is all white in complexion, four-armed, one-faced, wears the *jaṭā mukuta* and a white scarf. She is decked in white ornaments of gems and white serpents and rests on an animal. She plays on the *viṇā* with the two principal hands, carries the white snake in the second left and exhibits the protection *mudrā* with the second right, and is radiant like the moon.

Dr. Asutosh Bhattacharyya, in an article in *Folk-lore*, has traced the history of serpent worship in India. In the process of Aryanizing the non-Aryans, the Aryans accepted a number of non-Aryan beliefs. The worship of the serpent-goddess was one such belief. In the eastern



provinces of India (Bengal, parts of Bihar, Assam) and the Deccan, the indigenous worship continued. Here the serpent-goddess took anthropomorphic form. The Tantric school of Buddhism preached the worship of a serpent-goddess called Jāṅguli. According to the Mahāyāna texts, her worship is very ancient. In Mayurbhanj, N. N. Vasu found a number of stone images of Jāṅgultārū. In the *Harṣacharita*, Bāṇabhaṭṭa refers to her as Jāṅgulikā. In Bengal, her worship was prevalent till the eighth century A.D. The worship of Jāṅguli runs thus:

'I adore Jāṅguli, daughter of Śankara, remover of poison and born of a lotus. She is of golden appearance, handsome looking, lotus-faced, dazzling, endowed with the crest of mighty serpents, full of snakes, possessed of divine splendour.'

The Buddhist goddess Jāṅguli changed her name to Manasā under Hindu influence. But in parts of Bengal, even today she is worshipped as Jāṅguli.

The worship of Jāṅguli was prevalent in the Deccan too. Her symbol is the snake or vinā. Sometimes her vehicle is the snake.

### CUNḌĀ (Pls. 183-184)

Under the polytheistic influence of Vajrayāna Buddhism, numerous gods and goddesses, minor and major, appeared in the Buddhist pantheon. This craze ultimately reached such a stage that even Virtues were given anthropomorphic forms. This is how the Pāramitā goddesses were born. This is also how the Vāṣitā goddesses symbolizing the spiritual disciplines and the Bhūmis representing the spiritual spheres and the Dhārīnīs representing the sacred mantras came into existence (see under 'Philosophical Deities'). As soon as these were given human form, they were given cognizances and were affiliated to the Kuleśas.

The *Niṣpannayogāvalī* gives a list of twelve Dhārīnīs. These are: 1. Sumatī, 2. Ratnolkā, 3. Uṣṇisavijayā, 4. Mārī, 5. Parvāṣabari, 6. Jāṅguli, 7. Anantāmukhi, 8. Cunḍā, 9. Prajñāvardhanī, 10. Sarvakarmāvaranaviśodhanī, 11. Akṣayjñān-karaṇḍā and 12. Sarvabuddhadharmakoṣavati. All these Dhārīnīs are affiliated to the Kuleśa Amoghasiddhi.

In the *Niṣpannayogāvalī*, and the *Manjuvājra*

*Manjūla*, Cunḍā is assigned to the Dhyaṇī Buddha Vairocana.

It was supposed that if the Dhārīnī mantras were repeatedly chanted with deep concentration and faith, out of the vibrations of these chantings, the deity would take concrete form and would remain with the Sādhaka (disciple), who would thereupon attain Siddhi (Enlightenment).

The goddess Cunḍā was thus the anthropomorphic form given by the Tantrayānists\* to the Cunḍā Dhārīnī. Cunḍā is also known by several other names like Cundrā, Canda, etc. She is first mentioned in the *Mahāvastuśāṅkha* written in about A.D. 200. This work refers to her as Candrā. The *Guhyasamāja*, a work of about A.D. 300, which is assigned to Asaṅga, calls her Cunḍavajrī. She also finds a mention in the *Śikṣasamuccaya* of Śāntideva.

Three Sādhanaś of the *Sādhanaśālā* are devoted to her worship. They describe how worship to her is to be offered. But the significance of worshipping her is nowhere stated. She is two, four or six-handed and holds a bowl in two hands.

The mantra of Cunḍā is: 'Om Chale Chule Cunḍā svāhā.'

### TĀRĀ (Fig. 5, Pls. 169, 182, 188, 189)

In early Aryan worship, the male gods alone had importance. From the Vedic period down to the period of the *Grīhya-sūtras*, no goddess of any importance is mentioned. Rudrāṇī, Bhuvānī or Umā are mentioned, but only in a subordinate context. In the *Mahābhārata*, however, Krishna advises Arjuna to offer prayers to Umā for achieving success in battle. Krishna was thus the first to stress the importance of the Female Principle in worship.

In Mahāyāna worship too, there was a period when the Male Principle was exclusively adored. With the coming of Ārya Asaṅga, however, in the 4th century A.D., a change took place in Mahāyāna worship. It was Asaṅga who enunciated the philosophy of Tantrism and thus the philosophy of Śūnyatā became grafted to Mahāyāna. About this, there is much controversy. Bhattacharyya, Keith and many others regard Asaṅga as the founder of Tantrayāna. Sahu disputes this (see *Buddhism in Orissa* by N. R. Sahu, pp. 123-127). The adoration of the Female

\* Followers of Tantric Buddhism (Tantrayāna).



Principle was introduced in Buddhism in the form of the goddess Tārā. In the 7th century A.D., she took two distinct forms—White Tārā and Blue Tārā. In the succeeding centuries, her forms increased, making in all 21 Tārās.

By the 7th century A.D., with the open introduction of Śakti worship, White Tārā was declared to be the Śakti of Avalokiteśvara. In the course of time, as the teachings of the Tantrayāna spread, the belief became general that a god was more likely to answer prayers when worshipped in company with his Śakti. This led to the making of the Yab-Yum images.

Getty tells us that Tārā was enrolled among the Northern Buddhist gods in the 6th century. Yuan Chwang informs us that there were many statues of her in Northern India. In the centuries that followed, her worship became very popular and it spread to Java during the Pāla period.

Tārā is derived from the root 'tar' (to cross). Tārā helps to cross the 'Ocean of Existence.' The Tibetan translation of her means 'Saviouress.' The Tārā-Dhārāṇī is very popular in Tibet.

The White Tārā and the Green Tārā are two important and distinct goddesses. The symbol of the former is the full-blown lotus while that of the latter is the utpala (water-lily) with the petals closed. The former represents 'day' and the latter 'night.' Getty says that this symbolizes 'the willingness of Tārā to soothe human suffering by day as well as by night.'

The White Tārā is regarded as the consort of Avalokiteśvara. Her right hand is in the boon-giving pose and the left holds the stalk of a full-blown lotus. When Tārā appears as the Śakti of Amoghasiddhi, she is shown seated in the paryāṅkāśana with her right hand in the boon-giving pose and the left holding a viśva-vajra over a lotus.

According to Hirananda Sastri, the cult of Tārā originated in Tibet.

Tārā holds a position of considerable eminence in the Buddhist pantheon. She is a Saviour Goddess, a Deliveress. She is the Śakti of Avalokiteśvara as Umā is that of Maheśvara. In the Tantrayāna, Śakti assumed great importance. The male god was to be approached through his Śakti. Tārā was now conceived as the Mother Goddess. The *Lalitopākhyāna* of the *Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa* refers to a goddess Tārā as 'Tārāmbā,' which means 'Tārā the Mother.' She is referred

to as 'Tārā nama mahāśaktiḥ.' It is interesting to note that in Hindu literature, she is referred to as a sea-goddess.

'Tārā, the mother, who can control the rush of waters, is the chief of those śaktis who navigate or guide the boats and have dark complexion.'

Hirananda Sastri states that no images of Tārā dating before the 6th century A.D. are known. The earliest epigraphic reference to her is made in a Nagari inscription of A.D. 778 of Chāndi Kalasan in Java, which talks of a Śailendra prince doing homage to her.

### MAHĀMĀYŪRI (Pls. 181, 190)

The worship of Mahāmāyūrī was very popular in India, Nepal, Tibet, China and Japan. Mahāmāyūrī is the deification of a Magic Formula for curing snake-bites. The Buddha himself is said to have been the author of this charm. The Jātakas narrate the story of the Buddha having been a Golden Goose in one of his previous births. He gave a golden feather to his family from time to time to enable them to live in comfort. The goddess Mahāmāyūrī carries a golden peacock feather in one of her hands.

Mahāmāyūrī is affiliated to the Dhyaṇi Buddha Amoghasiddhi. She bears his image in the crown and is three-faced and six-armed. If she does not bear the image of Amoghasiddhi in the crown and is figured alone, she is represented as yellow in colour, one-headed, and two-armed. In her right hand she holds a peacock's feather, while the left hand is held in the varada mudrā. The *Sādhanamālā* describes only the three-headed and six-headed forms of Mahāmāyūrī. Gordon describes three forms of her which are usually portrayed in Tibet. Her mantra as given in the *Sādhanamālā* is: 'Om! Mahāmāyūrī Vidyārājñau hūm hūm phat phat svāhā.'

Mahāmāyūrī very frequently appears in a triad with Sitātārā and Mārīcī. In another triad she appears with Jāṅguli and Ekajātā. As Queen of the Magic Art, she is shown three-faced and six-handed or eight-handed. In Nepal she is looked upon as chief of the Five Protectresses (Pañcharakṣhās). In Japan, she is called Kujaku Myo-o.

### SARASVATI (Figs. 39-42, Pl. 165)

Under the influence of Vajrayāna, a number of Hindu gods were assimilated into the Buddhist



pantheon. Of these, Gaṇeśa and Sarasvatī were the most important. Several Sādhana in the *Sādhana-mālā* are assigned to them.

Sarasvatī is the name of a river which is no longer in existence. It was on the banks of this ancient river that the early Āryans made their settlements. The Vedic civilization of this time was based on offerings and sacrifices. Many of the Vedic hymns were composed on the banks of this river. In the *Rig-Veda*, the goddess is mentioned as the manifestation of a river called Sarasvatī. She is said to have refreshed Indra in his labours (R. V. 131). Gradually she became identified with the Vedic Goddess Vāk. The *Matsya-Purāṇa* tells us as to how Brahmā consorted with Sarasvatī. Brahmā fell in love with her and it was out of a desire to look at her continuously that he got five faces, one of which was later cut off by Rudra. The *Rig-Veda* (X-61.5.7), the *Maitrayaṇi Samhitā*, the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* and the *Āitareya Brāhmaṇa* develop the story of this incest.

In the Purāṇic period the river Sarasvatī was deified. She became the Goddess of Learning.

Among the many Hindu gods and goddesses borrowed by the Buddhists, Sarasvatī is the most important. In the Vajrayāna pantheon, her popularity increased. Since she was the Hindu goddess of learning, she was associated with Mañjuśrī, the Buddhist God of Transcendental Wisdom. As she was the consort of Brahmā, she became the Śakti of Mañjuśrī. The Sādhana of Sarasvatī says that her worship confers wisdom and learning on the Sādhaka. She is also worshipped as a goddess of music and poetry.

The Buddhist Goddess of Wisdom was Prajñā-pāramitā. Under Tāntric influence, she was replaced by Sarasvatī. It is interesting to note that at Ellora, there is not a single sculpture of Prajñā-pāramitā. It is obvious that here she has been replaced by Sarasvatī. This was not difficult as both the deities confer learning, intelligence and memory. Sarasvatī became so popular in the course of time that her worship penetrated into China and Japan.

Various forms of her are described in the *Sādhana-mālā*. As Mahāsarasvatī, she shows the boon-giving mudrā in the right hand and holds a white lotus in the left. She is surrounded by four deities identical in form to herself. As Vajravajrā Sarasvatī, she holds a vajra in her two hands. As Vajrasāradā she sits on a white lotus. In her crown is a moon. She is three-eyed and

carries a book in the left hand and a lotus in the right. As Vajrasarasvatī, she holds the Prajñā-pāramitā manuscript on a lotus in the left hand.

The mantra of Sarasvatī tells us that the Sādhana of Ārya Sarasvatī confers upon the disciple Prajñā (wisdom), Medhā (memory) and Buddhi (intelligence). It is in this form that Sarasvatī is associated with Mañjuśrī, the first Buddhist Bodhisattva.

In India and Tibet, Sarasvatī is generally shown seated, holding with her two hands the vīṇā. In Tibet, she holds the vajra sometimes. Sarasvatī may have one face and two arms, in which case her right hand is usually in the boon-giving mudrā, while the left holds a white lotus. She has a Tantra form in Tibet which is red, with three faces, six arms, a war-like pose and Tantra attributes. The Japanese goddess Benten is looked upon as a manifestation of Sarasvatī. Ellora has three sculptures of Ārya Sarasvatī.

### BHṚKUṬI (Pls. 182, 191)

The Sādhana of Bhṛkuṭi says that she is affiliated to the Dhyāni Buddha Amitābha. The Sādhana of Avalokiteśvara (as Khasarpaṇa) informs us that Bhṛkuṭi accompanies him along with Tārā, Sadhanakumārā and Hayagrīva.

Avalokiteśvara as Rakta-Lokeśvara is again accompanied by Bhṛkuṭi and Tārā. When Bhṛkuṭi accompanies Khasarpaṇa one of the two right hands is raised in the attitude of bowing, while the other carries the rosary. The two left hands carry the trident and the vase.

Getty describes her as 'the goddess that frowns.' As a matter of fact, in Tibet she is called 'K' rogyer-can-ma' (she whose face is wrinkled with anger). In Mongolia, she is called 'kilingtu eke' (the angry mother).

In the north, i.e., in Tibet, Mongolia, Japan, etc., it is the violent form of Bhṛkuṭi that is more commonly portrayed. In these sculptures or bronzes, the lower right hand is held in the boon-giving attitude, sometimes also holding a lotus, while the upper holds a rosary. In the left hands, she holds a tridaṇḍa (triple staff) and a vase. If she accompanies Amoghapaśa, a form of Avalokiteśvara, she is shown standing. Foucher has translated a Sādhana of her, in which Bhṛkuṭi stands reclined. As Blue Tārā, Bhṛkuṭi has three heads and six arms. She is shown standing some-



times, with legs crossed and a frown on her face. One of her right hands is in the protection attitude, the other holds a rosary, and the left hand holds a trident and a vase.

Two Sādhana in the *Sādhnamālā* are devoted to Bhṛkūṭī. In the first Sādhana she is described thus: 'The goddess Bhṛkūṭī should be conceived as four-armed, one-faced and yellow in colour, three-eyed and as blooming with youth. She shows the boon-giving hand-pose and the rosary in the two right hands, and carries the tridandī (triple staff) and the kamaṇḍalu (vase) in the two left. Her crown is stamped with the effigy of Amitābha. She sits on the orb of the moon over a lotus. Thus meditating . . .'

The other Sādhana of Bhṛkūṭī describes her as wearing a jaṭā mukuṭa. Her mantra as given in her Sādhana is: 'Om Bhṛm svāhā.'

### HĀRITĪ AND PĀÑCIKĀ (Pls. 185-187)

There are many legends concerning Hārītī. She was the sister of Yaksha Śatagiri, the Protector of Rajagriha. Her name was Abhirati. She became the wife of Pāñcikā, the son of Pāñchāla, the Yaksha Protector of Gandhara. The marriage proved very fruitful and Abhirati became the mother of 500 children. Her youngest and most favoured son was Priyāṅkara.

Abhirati was, however, very fond of eating children. She began making a feast of the children of Rajagriha. This earned her the name 'Hārītī' which meant the 'Stealer of Children.'

There were lamentations all over Rajagriha as Hārītī continued her feast. The people ultimately approached the Buddha and requested him to save their children from Hārītī. The Buddha carried away Priyāṅkara, the youngest child of Hārītī. The Yakshi could not find her Priyāṅkara anywhere in the house. She then began a search all over the world, but without success. Ultimately she came to the Buddha and requested him to restore her lost child to her. The Buddha said, 'O Hārītī! Why do you grieve so much if only one of your 500 children is lost? You had no pity when you devoured the children of the people of Rajagriha.' Hārītī repented her folly and agreed to follow the precepts of the Buddha. She agreed to give up eating human flesh. At this, there was great rejoicing in Rajagriha.

In return, the people promised to keep Hārītī and her children supplied with food on the advice of the Buddha. Therefore, in all the viharas (monasteries) of Northern India, in Nepal and the North, the practice started of setting apart a part of their food for Hārītī and her 500 children. Yuan Chwang and I-tsing found an altar dedicated to Hārītī in all the viharas of Northern India.

In sculptures, Hārītī is usually shown seated and sometimes standing. She is usually seated with a child at her breast or on her lap. She is accompanied by five children, which probably stand for her 500 children. She carries in one hand a pomegranate, the symbol of fecundity. Hārītī occupies an important position in Buddhist literature. She stands as a symbol of the concept of Motherhood.

She became popular in India, Nepal, Tibet, China, Java, and Turkistan. In Gandhara sculptures she wears no crown. Her hair is, however, arranged like a mukuṭa. The Chandi Mendut of Java has a sculpture of her, seated on a throne, holding a child to her breast. A Central Asian fresco shows her with an elaborate hair-do. Weddell has described a Tibetan Sādhana of her, where she is described as red in colour, with a nakula (mongoose) in her hand. A Tibetan image of her shows her seated on a double-petalled lotus, with legs folded. She is two-handed. Her right hand holds a child to her bare breast and is in the boon-giving mudrā. The left hand presses a mongoose to the breast and holds a bowl of jewels.

Hārītī is usually accompanied by her consort Pāñcikā. Her husband Pāñcikā belongs to the army of Kubera, and is a general. In Gandhara sculptures, he holds a lance in his right hand and a money bag in the left. In Northern and Western Indian sculptures, the lance disappears. A number of Hārītī—Pāñcikā sculptures are depicted at Ajanta and Ellora.

### THE PHILOSOPHICAL DEITIES

The *Niṣpannayogāvalī* mentions a number of goddesses of a subsidiary nature. These have an important place in the Buddhist pantheon. These are Pāramitās, Vāsitās, Bhūmis, and Dhārinīs. Each of these comprise twelve in number. All these have been given anthropomorphic form with their distinguishing iconography. The Pāramitās are perfections of cardinal virtues, the Vāsitās are



spiritual disciplines, the Bhūmis are spiritual spheres, the Dhāriṇis are sacred chains of words (mantras), the four Pratisaṃvits are branches of logical analysis. It is not customary to represent these deities in sculpture or painting. But the Chinese collection in Peking contains their statuettes, and so is unique.

*The Twelve Pāramitās:* Buddhism lays great emphasis on 'śīla' or conduct. Men must cultivate virtue. A number of stories connected with the life of the Buddha narrate as to how in each of these previous lives the Buddha cultivated one virtue to perfection. These virtues that men must cultivate, were deified and given human form by the Vajrayānists in their craze for iconic worship. Of the several Pāramitā deities, Prajñāpāramitā became very popular with the Buddhists. She symbolises transcendental intuition. The Chinese collection has a representation of all these Pāramitā goddesses and these show the influence of the *Niṣpannayogāvalī*.

The twelve Pāramitās are: Ratnapāramitā, Dānapāramitā, Śīlapāramitā, Kṣāntipāramitā, Vīryapāramitā, Dhyānapāramitā, Prajñāpāramitā, Upāyapāramitā, Prañidhānapāramitā, Balapāramitā, Jñānapāramitā, and Vajrakarmapāramitā.

*Twelve Vasiṭā Goddesses:* For the spiritual liberation of man, discipline is essential. The Vasiṭā goddesses are disciplines which help the process of such regeneration. They emanate from the Dhyāni Buddha Amitābha of the Lotus family and are mentioned in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī*. All these deities have been given human form and are faithfully represented in metal statuettes in the Chinese collection at Peking.

The twelve Vasiṭā goddesses are: Ayurvasiṭā, Cittavasiṭā, Parīkṣaravasiṭā, Karmavasiṭā, Upapattivasiṭā, Rddhivasiṭā, Adhimuktivasiṭā, Prañidhānavasiṭā, Jñānavasiṭā, Dharmavasiṭā, Tathāvasiṭā, and Buddhābodhiprabhāvasiṭā.

*Twelve Bhūmis:* The Bhūmis are spiritual spheres through which a Bodhisattva has to move to reach Buddhahood. A Bodhisattva has to cultivate many virtues and qualities in his quest for Buddhahood. The Bhūmis are arranged in order, one upon the other, in an ascending order of virtue. When the highest Bhūmi is reached, the Bodhisattva attains Buddhahood. The Bhūmis were originally ten in number. The Vajrayānists added two and made it twelve. They are described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* and are represented in China.

The twelve Bhūmis are: Adhimukticharyā,

Pramuditā, Vimalā, Prabhākari, Archiṣmatī, Sudurjyā, Abhimukhi, Durāṅgamā, Achalā, Sādhumatī, Dharmameghā, and Samantaprabhā.

*Twelve Dhāriṇis:* Tantrayāna developed a very considerable amount of literature to assist the spiritual liberation of its followers. The Dhāriṇis form one class of such literature. The Dhāriṇis 'are mostly unmeaning strings of words which are required to be kept in memory, so that they may be repeated at will for the purpose of developing psychic powers.' The Dhāriṇis emanate from the Dhyāni Buddha Amoghasiddhi of green colour.

The twelve Dhāriṇis are: Sumatī, Ratnolkā, Uṣṇisavijayā, Mārī, Pargaṣabari, Jāṅgulī, Anantamukhi, Cuṇḍā, Prajñāvardhani, Sarvakarmāvaranaviśodhini, Akṣayajñānakaraṇḍā, and Sarvabuddhadharmakoṣavatī.

*Four Pratisaṃvits:* The Pratisaṃvits are branches of logical analysis known as Dharma (nature), Artha (analysis), Nirukti (etymological analysis) and Pratiḥhana (context). These were deified by the Vajrayānists and given anthropomorphic form.

The four Pratisaṃvits are: Dharma Pratisaṃvit, Artha Pratisaṃvit, Nirukti Pratisaṃvit, and Pratiḥhana Pratisaṃvit.

## THE MINOR DEITIES AND THEIR ICONOGRAPHY

### GUARDIANS OF THE GATES

The Buddhist Guardians of the Gates or the Quarters owe their origin partially to their Hindu counterparts. Their origin is described in the Buddhist work *Guhyasamāja*. These guard the four principal quarters, the four intermediate quarters and the top and the bottom quarters. They are repeatedly mentioned in the Sādhana. In the *Niṣpannayogāvalī*, they are always present and their positions are always the same. They help protect the Teachings of the Lord. These Guardians are represented alone or with their Śaktis in Yab-Yum (close embrace). Frequently, they appear in violent forms.

### SIX GODDESSES OF DIRECTION

These six goddesses preside over the four cardinal directions and the top and bottom quarters. Their forms are described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* and the *Sādhana*.



#### EIGHT USNĪSA GODS

The Usnīsa gods are not gods of direction, yet they are placed in the four principal and four intermediate quarters. They show symbols similar to the Dhyāni Buddhas, and their statues are found in China. The *Niṣpannayogāvalī* describes these gods. They are all two-armed and one-faced. They are richly ornamented and sit on human beings.

#### THE FIVE PROTECTRESS (PANCHARAKṢHĀ) GODDESSES

The Pañcharakṣhā goddesses are worshipped as a group and also individually. They are popular among the Mahāyāna Buddhists of Nepal. *Pañcharakṣhā* manuscripts illustrating these deities are common in most Nepalese Buddhist homes. Their worship is supposed to confer long life. They protect men from evil spirits, disease, famines and from all possible damages that may befall mankind. They save men from illnesses and adversities of all kinds. The Pañcharakṣhā Maṇḍala is described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* and the *Sādhanamālā*.

#### TARAS OF FIVE COLOURS

Tārā is the saviour goddess who helps mankind cross the Ocean of Existence. Her worship is very common as she is supposed to protect her devotees from all kinds of dangers. In their most common form, they exhibit the varada mudrā (boon-giving attitude) with the right hand and carry a lotus in the left hand.

#### EIGHT GAURI GROUP

These goddesses, popularly worshipped by the Vajrayānists, are described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* and the *Sādhanamālā*. All these goddesses are 'violent in character with fearful appearance and ornaments, and garlands of heads. They dance in pratyāldha and show the raised index finger with clasped fist against the chest' as the common gesture.

#### FOUR DANCE DEITIES

The *Sādhanamālā* and the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* describe these four dance deities very frequently. They are violent in character, wear a garland of severed heads and dance in pratyāldha. Their common gesture is the tarjani mudrā against the chest.

#### FOUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Buddhists have also deified the musical instruments. They are described as 'nude, violent in appearance, wearing garlands of skulls and severed heads and dancing in pratyāldha. They display the different instruments as their special symbols.'

#### FOUR DOOR GODDESSES

The Vajrayāna Buddhists have deified the door planks, the lock, the key and the curtain since these protect the house from thieves. They are described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* as nude 'and, dancing in pratyāldha with fearful appearance.'

#### THE DAKINIS

The lesser goddesses called Dākinīs can confer superhuman powers or Siddhi, and so worship is offered to them. They are either pacific or angry.

The Buddhists too have Eight Mothers, Goddesses of the Four Seasons, the Twelve Jewel Goddesses, etc.

### HINDU GODS IN VAJRAYĀNA BUDDHISM

Buddhism being a religion of Indian origin, could not avoid the impact of Hinduism. As the Hindus made Buddha the ninth incarnation of Viṣṇu—though not a very flattering one—the Buddhists bodily lifted a number of gods and goddesses from the Hindu pantheon and incorporated them into their own. In the Buddhist pantheon they naturally play subordinate roles, like attending on the Buddha. But more frequently they were called upon to fill in more degrading roles. Many times they were used as vehicles by minor Buddhist deities and often they were trampled upon by others. Viṣṇu, Śiva, Gaurī, were all trampled upon in this manner by aggressive and violent Buddhist deities. Some others were more fortunate, viz., Sarasvatī and Gaṇapati. As these Hindu gods were incorporated into the Buddhist pantheon, they became affiliated to the various Kuleśas—the Dhyāni Buddhas. Thus they were fully converted to Buddhism, so much so that they came to be represented in the purely Buddhist atmosphere of China. Many of these Hindu gods are represented in the Chinese Buddhist collection at Peking. These gods are described in the *Niṣpannayogāvalī* and the *Sādhanamālā*.



# DEVYANI BUDDHAS

	AMITABHA	AKSHOBHA	VAIROcana	ANAGHASEDDHI	RATNAGAMBHARA (Fig. 8)
<i>Mudras &amp; Symbols</i>	Lotus symbol. Two hands on lap in attitude of meditation (dhyana); holds a bowl	Symbol—thunderbolt (Bhūvarṇa) If eight: lotus Two principal hands embrace Sakti	Mudra—dharmaśakṛa (attitude of preaching Dharma or Doctrine) Symbol—discus (wheel) Two hands hold thunderbolt and in dharmachakra pose. Two in attitude of meditation; two right hands hold rosary and arrow; two left hands hold discus and bow	Mudra—attitude of protection (abhaya). Symbol—thunderbolt (vishva-vajra). R.h.—abhaya L.h.—dhyana holding vishva-vajra	R.h.—boon-giving attitude (varada) L.h.—in attitude of meditation (dhyana) holding Cintamani jewel Symbol—jewel
<i>Colour</i>	Red	Blue	White	Green	Yellow
<i>Vehicle</i>	Peacock	Elephant	Lion or dragon	Eagle (Garuda)	Lion
<i>Anna</i>	Dhyana	Vajraparyāṅka (Adamantine seat)	—	Meditation (dhyana)	Meditation (dhyana)
<i>Sakti</i>	Pāṇḍarā	Māmaki or Locana	Locana, Vajradhātāvart or Tārā	—	Vajradhātāvart or Māmaki
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two or eight	Two or eight	Two	Two

# THE MORTAL (MANUSHI) BUDDHAS

	KRAKUCHANDA	KANAKAMUNI	KASYAPA	SAKYASIMHA (Gautama)	MATREYA (Future Buddha) (fig. 10)
<i>Mudras and Symbols</i>	Two hands in attitude of meditation (dhyana) No symbol	R.h.—protection (abhaya) L.h.—meditation (dhyana) No symbol	R.h.—boon-giving attitude (varada) L.h.—vīratka pose	Mudras: (1) dharmachakra (preaching attitude); (2) meditation; (3) earth-touching attitude (bhūsparśa) or boon-giving attitude (varada). Symbol, bow	Preaching attitude, vase or wheel; Stupa in forehead or on forehead
<i>Colour</i>	—	—	Yellow	Gold	Yellow
<i>Anna</i>	Meditation attitude, seated on lotus	Meditation (dhyana); seated on lotus	Meditation; seated on lotus	Meditation (dhyana); seated on lotus	Standing or seated

## BODHISATTVAS

	SAMANTABHADRA (Fig. 7)	ACĪKĀYAMATI (Fig. 11)	KĪRTIYĀRĪTHA (Fig. 12)	AKAṢAGĀRĪTHA (Fig. 13)	GAṢAGĀRĀṢA (Fig. 14)	RĀTĀPĀNI (Fig. 15)
<i>Symbols</i>	Jewel	Sword or jar	Kalpa tree or jar	Jewel	Kalpa tree	Jewel or the moon
<i>Mudrā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving <i>L.h.</i> —sword on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving <i>L.h.</i> —clenched against chest	<i>R.h.</i> —earth-touching <i>L.h.</i> —lotus with the wish-giving tree (kalpavṛkṣa)	<i>R.h.</i> —jewels <i>L.h.</i> —Cintāmaṇi jewel	<i>R.h.</i> —up towards sky <i>L.h.</i> —placed on hip, holds thunderbolt	<i>R.h.</i> —jewel <i>L.h.</i> —disc of moon on lotus
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow or blue	Golden yellow or white	Yellow or green	Green	Yellow or red	Green
<i>Hands</i>	Two or six	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Other forms</i>	(1) <i>R.h.</i> —bunch of jewels <i>L.h.</i> —on hip (2) Six-handed <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt, chopper and battle-axe <i>L.h.</i> —bell, skull-cap and head of Brahmā	(1) <i>R.h.</i> —sword <i>L.h.</i> —protection pose and lotus (2) Holds in two hands bowl containing nectar of knowledge	(1) Jar and protection pose (1) Jar and protection pose	(1) Cintāmaṇi jewel, and boon-giving attitude	(1) <i>R.h.</i> —Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —bowl from which is suspended Kalpa tree (2) Blue lotus and boon-giving pose with both hands (3) dharmagatīja on lotus <i>L.h.</i> —on hip	—

	GAṆDHĀRĀSTHĪ (Fig. 25)	JANAKETU (Fig. 26)	BHĀDRAPĀLA	SARVAPĀYANĪRĀJA (Fig. 28)	ŚURĀṢGAMA (Fig. 27)	VAIRĀPĀNI
<i>Symbols</i>	Elephant's trunk or conch	Flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel	Jewel	Act of removing sin or goad	Sword	Thunderbolt
<i>Mudrā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —trunk of an elephant on lotus or conch Green or whitish green	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with jewel <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving <i>L.h.</i> —jewel	With two hands displays act of removing all sins	<i>R.h.</i> —sword <i>L.h.</i> —clenched and rests on hip	<i>R.h.</i> —protection attitude <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt
<i>Colour</i>	Green or whitish green	Yellow or blue	Red or white	White	White	White
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Other forms</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —conch containing mālā paste <i>L.h.</i> —clenched left hand on hip	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with jewel <i>L.h.</i> —clenched left hand on hip	<i>R.h.</i> —jewel <i>L.h.</i> —clenched hand resting on hip	With both hands carries elephant goad	—	—

## BODHISATTVAS (Contd.)

	SACRAMATI (Fig. 16)	VAJRAGARBHA (Fig. 17)	AVALOKITEŚVARA (Fig. 18)	MAHĀSTHĀMAPRĀPTA (Fig. 19)	JĀLINIPRABHĀ (Fig. 20)
<i>Symbols</i>	Sea-wave or conch	Book-Daśabhiṃśika Scripture	Lotus	Six lotuses or sword	Sun-disc
<i>Mudrā</i>	Both hands outstretched and fingers displaying sea-waves	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—book	R.h.—boon-giving attitude L.h.—holds lotus	R.h.—boon-giving L.h.—disc of moon on lotus	R.h.—boon-giving attitude L.h.—disc of sun on lotus
<i>Colour</i>	White	Blue	White	White or yellow	Red
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Other forms</i>	R.h.—conch L.h.—sword marked with thunderbolt	R.h.—blue lotus L.h.—clenched left rests on hip	—	(1) R.h.—discus marked with thunderbolt L.h.—disc of moon on lotus (2) R.h.—moon on lotus L.h.—clenched and on hip	(1) R.h.—sword L.h.—disc of sun on lotus (2) R.h.—cage with thunderbolt mark L.h.—clenched and on hip

	AMITAPRABHĀ (Fig. 21)	PRĀTIBHĀVĀRŪPA (Fig. 22)	SARVABHŪTAKAR- MĀTAMĀTĪ (Fig. 23)	SARVATRĀYĀ- VĪDĀNĀTHĪ (Fig. 24)	MĀTREYA (Fig. 10)	MAṆUŚRĪ (Fig. 29)
<i>Symbols</i>	Jar	Whip	Staff	Sword and book	Nāgakesara flower	Sword and book
<i>Mudrā</i>	R.h.—jar of nectar on crown of head L.h.—clenched and on hip	R.h.—whip L.h.—clenched and placed on lap	R.h.—staff L.h.—clenched and placed on hip	R.h.—thumb and index finger joined together in clenched hand, displaying act of pacification L.h.—earth-touching attitude	Two principal hands—preaching attitude R.h.—boon-giving L.h.—twig of Nāgakesara flower	Six arms R.h.—sword, boon-giving and arrow L.h.—Prāṇāparāṃśikā book, blue lotus and bow
<i>Colour</i>	White or red	Yellow, green or red	Whitish yellow or yellow	White or blue	Golden yellow	Golden
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two or four	Two, four or six
<i>Other forms</i>	(1) Holding jar in two hands (2) R.h.—double lotus L.h.—jar on lotus	(1) R.h.—whip L.h.—sword on lotus (2) R.h.—crown on lotus L.h.—clenched and placed on hip	(1) with two hands, joining palm to palm, displays attitude of striking (2) R.h.—thunderbolt with 5 thongs L.h.—javelin (śaku)	R.h.—boon-giving and jewel L.h.—boon-giving and jewel	R.h.—Nāgakesara flower L.h.—incense bowl	Sword and book



# BUDDHIST DEITIES

(Pls. 136-191)

## DHYĀNI BUDDHAS AND MAJOR BODHISATTVAS

	VAJRAHARA Ādi-Buddha (Fig. 1)	VAJRASATTVA (Fig. 9)	AMITAYĀ (Fig. 21)	AKṢOBHYA	VAIROcana	AMOGHAJIDHI (Fig. 28)
<b>Symbols</b>	Thunderbolt and bell in two principal hands; two right hands carry sword and goad; two left hands carry skull- cup and noose	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt <i>L.h.</i> —bell	Lotus symbol. Two hands in meditation pose	Thunderbolt. Touching the Earth attitude (Bhūṣparīṇa)	Wheel. Attitude of preaching	Double thunderbolt Protection attitude
<b>Vehicle</b>	—	—	Peacock	Elephant	Lion or Dragon	Eagle
<b>Hands</b>	Six	Two	Two	Two or eight	Two or eight	Two
<b>Attitude</b>	Meditation	Meditation	Meditation	Adamantine pose*	?	Meditation

	RAṬṢASAMBHAVA (Fig. 8)	MAITREYA (Fig. 10)	ĀVALOKITEŚVARA	MAṆJUŚRĪ (Fig. 29)	VAJRAPĀNI	RATNAPĀNI (Fig. 15)	JANAKETU (Fig. 26)
<b>Symbols</b>	Cintāmaṇi jewel	Preaching attitude <i>L.h.</i> —Nāgakesara flower <i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose	Lotus <i>L.h.</i> —holds lotus <i>R.h.</i> —protection pose	Sword and book	<i>R.h.</i> —protection pose <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt	<i>R.h.</i> —jewel <i>L.h.</i> —disc of moon on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with jewel <i>L.h.</i> —boon-giving pose or resting on hip
<b>Vehicle</b>	Lion	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Hands</b>	Two	—	Two, four	Two, four or six	Two	Two	Two

\* Vajraparāṇka or Vajrasūtra. See page 109.

## BUDDHIST GODDESSES (ŚAKTIS)

	LOCANA (Fig. 4)	MAMAKI (Fig. 3)	VARADHATISVARI (Fig. 6)	PANDARA (Fig. 2)
<i>Dhyani Buddha</i>	Vairocana	Akṣobhya	Ratnasambhava	Amitayus
<i>Colour</i>	White	Blue	Yellow	Rose
<i>Asana</i>	One leg pendant	One leg pendant	One leg pendant	One leg pendant
<i>Symbols</i>	Preaching attitude or vitarka and varada. Holds stem of lotus supporting a jewel	Carries stems of flowers, supporting a thunderbolt and skull-cup or two thunderbolts	Carries stems of flowers, supporting three peacock-feathers	Holds blue lotus

	TARA (Fig. 5)	BIKKUTI	JANGULI (Fig. 36)	DEVIATA	PARNASABARI
<i>Dhyani Buddha</i>	Amoghasiddhi	—	—	—	—
<i>Symbols</i>	Double-vajra on lotus	R.h.—boon-giving pose and rosary L.h.—trident (staff with three horns) and vase	Protection attitude. Plays lute with principal hands. Serpent in second left or trident, peacock-feather and snake	R.h.—knife L.h.—skull-cup	R.h.—thunderbolt, battle-axe, arrow L.h.—lariat with noose cluster of leaves, bow

<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	—	Vighnas (Gauras)
<i>Colour</i>	Green	Yellow	—	Blue	Blue
<i>Hands</i>	—	Four	Four	—	—
<i>Asana</i>	One leg pendant	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Vitarka and varada. Carries stems of lotus, supporting double thunderbolt	—	—	—	—

	ARYA MARICI	CUNDA	MATAMAYURI
<i>Symbols</i>	R.h.—needle L.h.—string	R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—book on lotus. Two other hands carry book on lotus	R.h.—peacock-feathers, arrow and boon-giving pose L.h.—jewel, bow and water-vessel on lap

<i>Vehicle</i>	Pig	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	White	Green
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two to twenty-six	Six

## BODHISATTVA MANJUSRI—HIS FORMS

	VAJRABAGU	DIARMADHATU VAGRISVARA	MANJUGHOSA	SIDDHAKAVIRA (Pl. 172)	VAJRANANGA	NAMASANGITI MANUSRI (Fig. 30)	VAGRISVARA
<b>Symbols</b>	—	Bow, arrow, noose & gaud, book & sword, bell & thunderbolt	Lotus in left hand; Preaching with 2 hands. Image of Akshobhya in crown	R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—holds blue lotus	—	Bow, arrow, book & sword	Lotus (Utpala) L.h.—lotus R.h.—in graceful attitude
<b>Mudra</b>	(Samadhi) Meditation	—	—	—	Two principal hands hold bow of flowers & arrow of lotus bud R.h.—sword & mirror L.h.—lotus & Asoka bough	—	—
<b>Vehicle</b>	—	—	Lion	—	—	—	Lion
<b>Colour</b>	White	Reddish white	Golden yellow	—	Yellow	Reddish white	Red or yellow
<b>Asana</b>	Adamantine pose (vajraparyanka)	With one foot pendant (lalita)	—	Adamantine pose	Right foot raised (pratyaldha)	Adamantine pose	Right knee raised and left leg crossed (ardhaparyanka)
<b>Hands</b>	Two	Eight	Two	Two	Four or six	Four	—
<b>Faces</b>	One	Four	One	One	—	Three	—
<b>Misc.</b>	Decked in princely ornaments	Displays the sentiment of passionate love	Decked in ornaments	Accompanied by four deities : Jaliniprabha, Chandraprabha, Kesini & Upakesini	Akshobhya in jata crown. Displays emotion of love for he is the Buddhist God of love	Decked in princely ornaments	—
<b>Other forms</b>	—	Preaching attitude, arrow & vessel in- stead of noose & goad	—	—	—	—	—



## BODHISATTVA MANJUSRI (Contd.)

	MANJOVARA (Pls. 171)	MANJOVARA (Fig. 31)	MANJUKUMARA	ARAPACANA	ETHIRACAKRA	VAHRAT
<i>Symbols</i>	Prajñāpāramitā book on lotus	—	—	Book & sword	Sword	—
<i>Mudrā</i>	Preaching attitude	With two hands embraces his Sakti: sword, arrow, bow, lotus	L.h.—Prajñāpāramitā book, lotus, bow R.h.—sword, arrow, boon-giving pose	R.h.—sword L.h.—Prajñāpāramitā book held against chest	Boon-giving pose and sword	Preaching (vyākhyāna)
<i>Vehicle</i>	Lion	Sits on moon or lion	Animal	—	Sits on moon, supported by lotus	Tiger
<i>Asana</i>	With one foot pendant (lalita)	Adamantine pose	—	Adamantine pose	—	Right knee raised left leg crossed (ardhaparyāṅka)
<i>Colour</i>	Golden yellow	Red or golden yellow	Red	White or red	White	—
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Six	Six	Two	Two	Two
<i>Feet</i>	One	Three	Three	One	One	One
<i>Misc.</i>	Displays sentiment of love	—	Displays sentiment of love Decked in princely ornaments	Four companions: Jālinikamāra (or Suryaprabhā) in front, Chandraprabhā behind, Kesi in on right, Upakesini on left, Displays sentiment of passionate love	Companion : Sakti. Displays sentiment of passionate love. Decked in princely ornaments	Decked in various ornaments
<i>Other forms</i>	—	R.h.—sword, boon- giving, arrow L.h.—Prajñāpāramitā book, blue lotus and bow	—	—	—	—

## BODHISATVA AVALOKITESVARA—HIS FORMS

	SADAKSARI-LOKESVARA (Pls. 163-164)	SIBHANADA (Fig. 32)	KHASARPANA	LOKANATHA (Fig. 33)	HAIHAIHA
<i>Symbols</i>	Rosary & lotus	Sword on lotus Trident entwined by snake	Lotus	Lotus	—
<i>Mudrā</i>	Two hands in ājālī mudrā clasped against the chest <i>R.h.</i> —rosary <i>L.h.</i> —lotus	—	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —stem of lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —varada, rosary, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —bow, lotus, and one touches Śakti
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Lion	—	—	—
<i>Asana</i>	—	Mahārājajālī	Lalitā or ardhaparyāṅkā	With one foot pendant (lalitaparyāṅkā or vajraparyāṅkā)	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	White	White	White	White
<i>Hands</i>	Four	—	—	Two	Six
<i>Feet</i>	One	—	—	One	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	<i>On Rīchi</i> —Mañdhara with same colour & same hands. <i>On left</i> —Śaḍakṣarī. Mahāvīdyā with identical form sitting on another lotus	Crown of matted hair Clad in tiger-skin No ornaments	<i>Companions</i> : Tārā in front, Sudhanakumārā on right, Bhīṣmī on west and Hayagrīva on north	Usually alone. Sometimes with Tārā & Hayagrīva	Amṛtābha in jata crown. Decked in ornaments. Crescent & skull-cup on head. To right side of Hāhāla & his Śakti, trident entwined by snake and on left, skull-cup on lotus
<i>Other forms</i>	—	—	—	In Maṇḍala, accompanied by Maitreya, Kṣitigarbha, Vajrapāṇi, Khagarbha, Viśvakambhīn, Samanta- bhadrā, Mañjuśrī, Gaganagañjā & Dhṛupā, Puṣpā, Gandhā & Dīpā (goddesses) & Vairāṅkuṣī, Vajrapāṇi, Vajrasphota & Vajraghanṭhā (guardians of four gates)	—

## BODHISATTVA AVALOKITESVARA (Contd.)

	PADMANARTTESVARA	BARHARHARIVAHANA (Fig. 34)	TRAILOKYAVASANKARA	RAKTA-LOKESVARA (Pls. 166-168)	MAYAJALAKRAMA
<b>Symbols</b>	Double lotus in all hands	—	Noose & gaud	Noose, goad, bow & arrow	—
<b>Mudrā</b>	Double lotus in all the 18 hands	<i>R.h.</i> —Buddha, rosary & preaching pose <i>L.h.</i> —staff, deer-skin, vase	—	—	<i>R.h.</i> —drum, ritual wand, goad, noose, thunder-bolt, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —raised index finger, skull-cup, red lotus, the jewel, discus, bow
<b>Vehicle</b>	—	Lion, Eagle & Vishnu	—	—	—
<b>Āsana</b>	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅk-āsana	—	Adamantine pose	Standing or seated	With left foot raised (pratyāñātha)
<b>Colour</b>	—	White	Red	Red	Blue
<b>Hands</b>	Eighteen	Six	Two	Four	Twelve
<b>Faces</b>	One	—	One	—	Five
<b>Misc.</b>	Amitābha in jata crown. Right & left sides occupied by Tārā, Sudhama, Bhīṣmī and Hayagrīva. Decked in divine ornaments & dress	Lion is lowermost, on it rides Eagle. On back of Eagle rides Hindu god Vishnu. On the shoulder of Vishnu rides Lokēśvara. Crown of matted hair	Decked in celestial garments & ornaments. Limbs reddened by the intense sentiment of passion	Companions: Tārā on right & Bhīṣmī on left. Holds red lotus in left hand, opens its petals with the right. Decked in ornaments	He is nude & wears a garland of heads

	NILAKANTHA	SUGATISANDARŚANA	PRETASANTARIPITA	ŚIKHAJĀTĪ LOKESVARA	VARADHARMA
<b>Symbols</b>	Bowl of jewels	—	—	—	Lotus
<b>Mudrā</b>	Two hands in meditation, hold skull-cup filled with gems	<i>R.h.</i> —varada, abhaya, rosary <i>L.h.</i> —lotus, water-pot, staff	1st pair of hands, varada 2nd pair, jewel & book 3rd pair, rosary & staff with three horns	<i>R.h.</i> —arrow, rosary, varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —bow, lotus. Third placed on thigh of Tārā	<i>L.h.</i> —lotus with 16 petals <i>R.h.</i> —causes lotus to blossom against chest
<b>Vehicle</b>	—	—	—	—	Peacock
<b>Colour</b>	Yellow	White	White	White	—
<b>Āsana</b>	Adamantine pose	—	—	Lalitā (with one foot pendant)	Lalitā
<b>Hands</b>	Two	Six	Six	Six	Two
<b>Faces</b>	One	—	One	Three	One
<b>Misc.</b>	Jatā crown shows crescent & Amitābha. Wears a tiger-skin & no ornaments. His throat shows the blue pill of poison. The two sides of god occupied by two cobras with jewels on their hoods and tails entwined with each other	Decked in ornaments	Crown of matted hair Decked in ornaments	Companion, Śakti. Surrounded by goddesses Vairātārā, Vairātārī, Padmatārī, etc.	Bears effigies of five Dhyāni Buddhas in crown. Displays sentiment of love



# DHYANI BUDDHA AMITABHA—HIS EMANATIONS

## GODS

MAHABALA	SAPTASATVICA DAYAGRIHA (Fig. 33)	SUKLA KURUKULLA	GODDESSES	UDHYANA KURUKULLA
—	Thunderbolt & staff	Rosary and bowl of lotus	—	—
<i>R.h.</i> —white staff & fly-whisk	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt	<i>R.h.</i> —rosary	<i>R.h.</i> —bow, red lotus	—
<i>L.h.</i> —mudrā of bowing & raised index finger	<i>L.h.</i> —staff	<i>L.h.</i> —cup of lotus full of Nectar	<i>L.h.</i> —abhaya & arrow	—
—	—	Animal	Kamadeva & Ratī on Rahu	—
Red	Red	White	Red	Red
Pratyaldha (Right foot raised)	—	Adamantine pose	Adamantine pose	Ardhaparyāṅka
Four	Two	Two	Four	Four
One	—	—	—	—
Hair tied by snake. Wears ornaments of snakes. His face looks terrible. Effigy of Amitābha in crown	Protruding belly & horse-head. Wears serpent ornaments & a garland of skulls. Tramples the world. Amitābha in jāta crown. Horse's head over the principal head	Jāta crown with Amitābha, her hair tied up by serpent Ananta; her necklace is Vāsukī; her ear ornament is Takṣaka; her sacred thread is Karkkṣotaka; her girdle is Padma, the lord of serpents; her Nupura (anklet) is the serpent Mahāpadma. She displays the sentiment of passionate love	Amitābha in crown. Displays amorous sentiments	Goddess looks fierce, wears a garland of heads, five skulls on the head, protruding teeth & tongue

## GODDESSES

AMITABHA KURUKULLA	MAYAJALAKRAMA KURUKULLA	BIHKKUTI (Pls. 182, 191)	MAHASTAVATI
—	—	—	—
Trailokyaṣṭi mudrā with first pair of hands	Trailokyaṣṭi mudrā with first pair of hands; abhaya & sprout of Kunda flower with second & rosary & vase in the third	<i>R.h.</i> —attitude of bowing or varada & rosary.	<i>R.h.</i> —rosary & varada pose
<i>R.h.</i> —elephant goad, arrow & varada pose	—	<i>L.h.</i> —tridant (staff with three horns) & vase	<i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt & book
<i>L.h.</i> —noose, bow & lotus	Serpent Takṣaka	—	—
Red	Red	Yellow	Red
Adamantine pose (vajraparyāṅka)	Adamantine pose	—	Ardhaparyāṅka
Eight	Six	Four	Four
Decked in ornaments. Companions: on east—Prasannatārā; on south—Nirgamatārā; on west—Jayatārā; on north—Kāroṇatārā; on north-east petal—Cupid; on east petal—Aparājita; on south-west—Pradīptārā; on north-west—Gaurītārā	—	Her crown shows effigy of Amitābha	Effigy of Amitābha in crown. Decked in ornaments.

*Symbol*  
*Mudrā*

*Vehicle*  
*Colour*  
*Āsana*  
*Hand*  
*Face*  
*Misc.*

*Symbol*  
*Mudrā*

*Vehicle*  
*Colour*  
*Āsana*  
*Hand*  
*Misc.*

# DHYANI BUDDHA AKṢOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS

## GODS

	CANDAROGANA	HERUKA	HĒVAJRA	BUDDHAKAPALA	SAMBARA	SAPTAKSARA
<i>Symbols</i>	Sword & vajrapāśa (vajra) with noose)	Thunderbolt & skull-cup	Thunderbolt & skull-cup	—	Thunderbolt & bell	—
<i>Mudrā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —sword <i>L.h.</i> —noose round the raised index finger against the chest	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup full of blood	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt in raised hand <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup marked with vajra, embraces his Prajñā Nairātma	<i>R.h.</i> —kartī (knife), drum <i>L.h.</i> —ritual wand & skull-cup	—	<i>R.h.</i> —skull-cup, ritual wand, trident <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt, bell, human skin
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	—	Kālarātri	Kālarātri
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	—
<i>Āsana</i>	—	Seated with right knee raised (ardhaparyāṅka)	Dances in ardhaparyāṅka	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka	Left foot raised (āldha)	Left foot raised (āldha)
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Two	Four	Two	Six
<i>Faces</i>	One	—	One	—	One	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	Squint eyed. Terrible face. Wears on his crown a garland of heads	Stands on a corpse. From his left shoulder hangs a ritual wand with a flowing banner	—	Gigantic in stature; garlands of heads. Akṣobhya in crown. Embraced on left by Prajñā Citrasena	Akṣobhya in crown. Viśva-vajra in head-dress. Tramples upon Bhairava & Kālarātri. Matted hair. Embraced by Śakti Vajravārāhi	Six deities on six spokes of the Sun-wheel on which he stands. From right—Herukī, Vajravārāhi, Ghoracandi, Vajrabhīṣakī, Vajrasaundri, Vajrapāṇinī

## Other forms

*Four-armed*—with other two hands embraces Śakti Vajravārāhi  
*Six-armed*—3-faced  
*L.h.*—bell, bow, skull-cup; *R.h.*—vajra, arrow, trident

*Four-faces & 12-armed*:  
*R.h.*—vajra & vajra-marked bell, elephant-skin, drum, axe, knife (kartī), trident  
*L.h.*—vajra, vajra-marked bell, ritual wand, skull-cup, noose & Brahmā's head

DIHYANI BUDDHA AKSOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS (Contd.)

	VIGHNANTARA	VAIRAHINAKARA	BHUTADAMARA	VAJRAVALANALAKA
<i>Symbols</i>	Tarjanapāśa (tarjant with noose) & thunderbolt <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt <i>L.h.</i> —noose held by index finger	Thunderbolt & bell  Two hands locked in the vajrahūlākā mudrā hold thunderbolt & bell	Thunderbolt & tarjant mudrā  <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt; <i>L.h.</i> —tarjant mudrā Makes bhūtiādhimara mudrā with two hands	—  <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt, sword, wheel, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —bell, bow, noose and ritual wand
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Śiva	Aparājita	Vishnu and his wife
<i>Asana</i>	Right foot raised (pratyāhitha)	Right foot raised (pratyāhitha)	—	With left foot raised (alidha)
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	Blue	Black	Blue
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Two	Four	Eight
<i>Faces</i>	One	—	—	Four
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Tamples upon Bhairava Looks terrible	Looks angry, Decked in serpent ornaments	—
<i>Other forms</i>	—	(1) <i>Three-faced, six-armed</i> : With two principal hands holds a vajra & ghantā. Other hands hold goad, noose, skull-cup & ritual wand	—	—

NOTE : Except for Jambhala, all the male emanations of Aksobhya are terrific in appearance, with twisted and fanged faces, protruding tongues, blood-shot eyes, etc. They wear ornaments made up of snakes and garlands of skulls.



DHYANI BUDDHA AKSOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS (Contd.)

	MAHAMAYA	DAYAGRIYA (Fig. 35)	RAKTAJAMARI	KRISHNAYAMARI	JAMBHALA (Pl. 179)	UCCHUSMA JAMBHALA
<b>Symbols</b>	—	—	Skull-cup, staff	Staff	—	R.h.—skull-cup L.h.—mongoose
<b>Mudrā</b>	Skull-cup, arrow, ritual wand, bow	R.h.—thunderbolt, staff, karava pose & raised arrow L.h.—raised index finger, touches breast, lotus, bow	R.h.—white staff L.h.—skull-cup	R.h.—staff marked with thunderbolt L.h.—raised index finger with noose against chest	R.h.—citron, goad, arrow L.h.—embraces Prajñā with one, mongoose, arrow	—
<b>Vehicle</b>	—	—	Buffalo	—	—	Kubera vomiting jewels
<b>Colour</b>	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	—	—
<b>Asana</b>	—	With one foot pendant (lalita)	Right foot raised (pratyāhāra)	Right foot raised (pratyāhāra)	—	Right foot raised (pratyāhāra)
<b>Hands</b>	Four	Eight	Two	Two	Six	—
<b>Feet</b>	Four	Three	One	One	Three	—
<b>Misc.</b>	Terrible in appearance. Row of skulls in head-dress Companions : east—Vajradākṣiṇī ; south—Ratnadākṣiṇī ; west—Padmadākṣiṇī ; north—Vivadākṣiṇī	Aksobhya in crown	Aksobhya in crown Ornaments of snakes	—	Aksobhya in matted hair	Appears as a child of five years. Ornaments of snakes. Aksobhya in crown. Protruding belly Terrible face

(1) Three-faced, four-armed;

R.h.—mudgara, sword  
L.h.—lotus & jewel

(2) Three or six-faced,

six-armed ;

R.h.—sword, mudgara, thunderbolt

L.h.—ball, vajra, noose, wooden pestle

Rides on a buffalo

Other forms —

## DEHYANI BUDDHA AKSOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS (Contd.)

GODDESSES					
	TRAILOKYAVIJAYA	PARANASTYA	YOGAMBARA	KALACAKRA	MAHACINATARA
					JANUULI (PL. 181)
<i>Symbols</i>					Snake or lute
<i>Mudra</i>	Vajrahakara mudra with two hands bearing bell & thunderbolt against chest <i>R.h.</i> —ritual wand, goad, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —bow, noose & vajra	<i>R.h.</i> —double thunderbolt raised upwards, sword, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —staff with double lotus, dart, staff & bow	Principal hands—vajra & vajra-marked bell <i>R.h.</i> —breast, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —lotus bowl & bow	<i>R.h.</i> —vajra, sword, trident, knife, fire, arrow, vajra & goad, discus, knife, rod, axe <i>L.h.</i> —bell, plate, ritual wand, skull-cup, bow, noose, jewel, lotus, mirror, vajra, chain & severed head of Brahmā	Abhaya, Plays lute with principal hands. Snake in second left & abhaya mudra with second right
<i>Vehicle</i>	Gauri & Siva	Four gods & four goddesses (Indra, Indrani, Sri, Rati, etc.)	—	—	Corpse
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	—	Blue	Blue	—
<i>Asana</i>	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)	—	Dances in āldha	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)
<i>Hands</i>	Eight	Eight	Six	Twenty-four	Four
<i>Faces</i>	Four	Four	Three	Four	One
<i>Misc.</i>	Tramples upon head of Siva with left leg. Right presses upon bosom of Gauri	Four legs. Tramples Indrani & Sri with one right leg, Rati & Priti with the other right leg. Tramples Indra & Madhukara with one left leg & Jayakara & Vasanta with the other left leg	—	—	Garland of beads, short protruding belly, looks terrible. Serpent ornaments
<i>Other forms</i>	—	—	—	—	—

(1) *Symbols*—trident, peacock & feathers, snake  
(2) *Three-faced, six-armed*:  
*R.h.*—sword, vajra, arrow  
*L.h.*—tariant with noose, blue lotus, bow

DHYANI BUDDHA AKSOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS (Contd.)

GODDESSES

	DEVIATA	VIRYUDALAKARANI	PARASABARI (Fig. 37)	SITAPRANAPARAMITA	PTITAPRANAPARAMITA	KANAKAPRANAPARAMITA
<i>Symbols</i>	Knife, skull-cup <i>R.h.</i> —knife <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, vajra, wheel, jewel, goad, arrow, dart, mudgara, wooden pestle, knife, drum, rosary. <i>L.h.</i> —bow, noose, targeant, banner, mace, trident, wine glass, lotus, bell, battle- axe, Brahmā's skull-cup	—	Lotus & book	Book on lotus to the left	Book on lotus on two sides
<i>Mudrā</i>	—	—	<i>R.h.</i> —vajra, battle-axe, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —targeant with noose, cluster of leaves, bow	<i>R.h.</i> —red lotus <i>L.h.</i> —Pratyāparāmīti book	Preaching attitude with two hands. On left a lotus, on a book	Dharmachakra pose
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Indra, Brahmā, Vishnu, Śiva	Vigilant (Gāṇeśa)	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	Blue	Yellow	White	Yellow	Golden
<i>Asana</i>	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)	Right foot raised (pratyāldha)	Adamantine pose (vajraparyanka)	Adamantine pose	Adamantine pose
<i>Hands</i>	Two	Twenty-one	Six	Two	Two	—
<i>Feet</i>	One	Twelve	Three	One	One	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Looks terrible	Protruding tongue. Looks terrible. Wears garland of skulls, ornaments of snake	Decked in ornaments. Jata crown with flowers. Image of Aksobhya in crown	Decked in ornaments. Beautiful face, pleasant expression	Aksobhya in jata crown	—
<i>Other forms</i>	(1) <i>Four-armed:</i> <i>R.h.</i> —arrow, sword <i>L.h.</i> —bow, skull (2) <i>Eight-armed:</i> <i>R.h.</i> —sword, arrow, vajra, knife <i>L.h.</i> —bow, lotus, battle- axe, skull	—	—	—	—	—



DHYANI BUDDHAS AKSOBHYA—HIS EMANATIONS (Concl.)

(GODDESSES)

	VARAČARICĀ	MAHĀMĀNTRĀNĪSĀRINĪ	MAHĀPRATYANĪRĀ	DHYAŪGĀRĀKYURĀ	VARUDHĀRĀ	NAIRĀTMA	JANĀDAKINĪ	VAJRAVĪDARĀNĪ
<i>Symbols</i>	Emaciated body	—	—	—	Ears of corn	Knife & skull-cup	—	—
<i>Mandā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt, sword, wheel <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup, jewel, lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt, varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —battle-axe, noose	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, goad, varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —tactant with noose, red lotus, trident	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, noose <i>L.h.</i> —ritual wand, wheel	<i>R.h.</i> —varada <i>L.h.</i> —ears of corn	<i>R.h.</i> —knife <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup & ritual wand	<i>R.h.</i> —ritual wand, axe, thunderbolt <i>L.h.</i> —bell, skull-cup, sword	<i>R.h.</i> —goad, sword, thunderbolt, varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —noose, shield, bow, flag & abhaya pose
<i>Vehicle</i>	Corpse	—	—	—	—	Corpse lying on its back	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Blue	—
<i>Āsana</i>	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka	—	—	Right foot raised (pratyāṅgha)	—	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Six	Four	Six	Four	Two	—	Six	Ten
<i>Feet</i>	—	One	One	Three	—	—	Three	Five
<i>Misc.</i>	Looks terrible. Garland of human heads. Aksobhya in crown	Aksobhya in crown	Aksobhya in crown	Has protruding belly. Five shrivelled heads on head <i>Four-faced, 4-armed.</i> <i>R.h.</i> —sword, wheel <i>L.h.</i> —tanjant with noose, wooden pestle A trident hangs from her left shoulder	Decked in ornaments Aksobhya in crown. <i>Companions.</i> In front Śriva-sundarā; on right Vāsudhārā; on west Śriva-sundarā and on left Vāsudhārā	Aksobhya in crown. Terrible face	—	—

# DIHYANI BUDDHA VAIROCANA—HIS EMANATIONS\*

	NAMASANGITI	MARICI ASOKAKANTA	ARYA MARICI	MARICI PICCUVA	UBHAYAVARAHANANA
<i>Symbols</i>	—	Left hand touching the Asoka bough	Needle & string	Needle & string	Two sow-faces
<i>Mudrā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —abhaya, añjali, sword on double-vajra, tarpaua, ksepaua, dhyāna <i>L.h.</i> —abhaya, añjali, ritual wand, tarpaua, ksepaua,	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —bough of Asoka tree	<i>R.h.</i> —needle <i>L.h.</i> —string	Battle-axe, noose, bow, arrow, vajra, leaves of Asoka	<i>R.h.</i> —needle, goad, spear (Bhindipāla), sword, knife, staff <i>L.h.</i> —tarjani, Asoka bough, vajrāntula, skull-cup, head of Brahmā, vessel
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Pig	Pig	Chariot of seven pigs	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	—
<i>Āsana</i>	Adamantine pose	Standing	Standing	With right foot raised (āldha)	Right foot raised (āldha)
<i>Hands</i>	Twelve	—	—	Eight	Twelve
<i>Faces</i>	One	—	—	Three	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	Jatā crown with ornaments	Vairocana in crown	Vairocana in crown	Vairocana in crown. She is surrounded by four god- desses—Varttili, Vaddili, Varili & Varāhamukhi. Sews up eyes & mouths of the wicked with the needle & string	Tramples Hindu gods Hara, Hari & Brahmā

	DASABHUSITA MARICI	VAJRA DHYATISVARI MARICI (Pl. 180)	LENDAYAYA	STATAPATRA APARAJITA
<i>Symbols</i>	—	—	Buddha on lotus	—
<i>Mudrā</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —sun, blue thunderbolt, arrow, goad and needle <i>L.h.</i> —moon, bow, Asoka bough, noose with tarjani and string	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, wooden pestle, arrow, goad, thunderbolt, battle-axe <i>L.h.</i> —noose, skull-cup, Asoka bough severed head of Brahmā, bow and trident	<i>R.h.</i> —double thunderbolt, Buddha on lotus, arrow and varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —bow, noose with tarjani, abhaya, vessel	<i>R.h.</i> —wheel, goad and arrow <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt, arrow and noose with tarjani
<i>Vehicle</i>	Chariot of seven pigs	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	—	White	White
<i>Āsana</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>Hands</i>	Ten	Left leg bent and raised forward, right leg straight & thrown behind	Eight	Six
<i>Faces</i>	Five	Twelve	Three	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	Four legs, Tramples Indra, Siva, Vishnu and Brahmā. Vairocana in crown. Accompanied by three goddesses	Six Vairocana in crown	Decked in ornaments, Vairocana in crown	Angry look. Wears celestial ornaments

\* Only Nāmasangiti is male. All the others are goddesses.

# DHYANI BUDDHA VAIROcana—HIS EMANATIONS (Contd.)

	MADANAHARAPRAMARDANI	VAIRAVARAH	CUNDA (Ph. 169, 183, 184)	GRHAMATRIKA
<i>Symbols</i>	—	Escrescence near the right ear	Book on lotus	—
<i>Mudrā</i>	R.h.—sword, arrow and varada pose L.h.—bow, noose, battle-axe	—	Two hands hold bowl R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—book on lotus	Preaching attitude with principal hands R.h.—thunderbolt, arrow L.h.—lotus, bow
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	Red	White	—
<i>Asana</i>	—	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka	—	Admantine pose
<i>Hands</i>	Six	Two or four	Two, four, sixteen, eighteen, or twenty-six	Six
<i>Faces</i>	One	—	One	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	Decked in ornaments. Young and beautiful. Displays sentiment of love. Vairocana in crown	Double thunderbolt on head	—	—
<i>Other forms</i>	—	(1) <i>Colour</i> —Red <i>Appearance</i> —Nude <i>Asana</i> —Pratyāldha <i>Symbols</i> —Vajra-tarant & skull-cup (2) <i>Symbols</i> —Knife & skull-cup <i>Asana</i> —Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka <i>Vehicle</i> —Corpse lying on back (3) <i>Appearance</i> —Terrible <i>Arms</i> —Four <i>Asana</i> —Alidha	(1) Rosary & vase (2) R.h.—club (mudgara), knife L.h.—lotus & staff (3) <i>Sixteen-handed</i> : R.h.—boon-giving pose, thunderbolt, discus, club, dagger, ? , rosary L.h.—vessel, axe, trident, bow, dagger, ? , sceptre	—



# DHYANI BUDDHA, AMOGHASIDDHI—HIS EMANATIONS\*

	VAJRAMITRA	KUADRAVANI-TARA	MAHARSI-TARA	VASYA-TARA	SADHITUJA-SITATARA	DHANADA-TARA
<i>Symbols</i>	—	Blue lotus	—	Lotus	—	—
<i>Objects in hand</i>	Principal hands hold thunderbolt and bell & embraces Prajñā R.h.—discus, sword L.h.—noose & goud	R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—blue lotus	Two hands in preaching attitude	R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—lotus	R.h.—boon-giving pose, rosary, arrow L.h.—blue lotus, lotus, bow	R.h.—rosary, boon-giving pose L.h.—lotus, book
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	Animal Green
<i>Āsana</i>	—	Sitting or standing	—	Both legs pendant (bhadrasana)	Dancing attitude: standing on one foot, one foot lifted (ardhaparyāṅka)	—
<i>Hands</i>	Six	Two	Two	—	Six	Four
<i>Faces</i>	Three	—	One	—	Three	One
<i>Misc.</i>	—	Companions: to her right—Asokakāntā Mārīci; on left—Ekajātā. Amoghasiddhi in crown	Companions: Ekajātā on left, Asokakāntā on right, Arya-Jāṅguli behind Ekajātā. Mahāmāyūrī on extreme right	Amoghasiddhi in crown. No companions.	Amoghasiddhi in jātā crown. Head decorated with five severed heads and crescent. Decked in ornaments	Amoghasiddhi in crown

	SITA-TARA	PARASABARI	MAHAMAYURI	VAJRAŚRINKHALA	VAJRAGANDHARI
<i>Symbols</i>	—	—	—	Chain	—
<i>Objects in hand</i>	Utpalā (lotus), mudrā with two hands R.h.—varada, with Cintāmani jewel L.h.—lotus bud	R.h.—thunderbolt, battle-axe, arrow L.h.—bow, cluster of leaves, noose with tārjant pose	R.h.—peacock's feathers, arrow & varada pose L.h.—jewel, bow & water-vessel on lap	R.h.—protection pose, thunderbolt, thunderbolt-chain, arrow L.h.—skull-cup, noose with tārjant, bow	R.h.—thunderbolt, bell marked with vajra, sword, trident, arrow, discus L.h.—ritual wand, goad, bow, battle-axe, noose, tārjant against chest
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Diseases in human form	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	Green	Green	Green	—
<i>Āsana</i>	—	Left leg raised (pratyāldha)	Dancing attitude: standing on one foot, one foot lifted	With one leg pendant (lalita)	Left leg raised (pratyāldha)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Three	Six	Eight	Twelve
<i>Faces</i>	One	Six	Three	Three	Six
<i>Misc.</i>	Images of five Dhyanī Buddhas in crown. Decked in ornaments Companions: Mārīci on right & Mahāmāyūrī on left	Amoghasiddhi in crown Tramples under feet diseases Decked in tiger-skin	Decked in wonderful ornaments Displays sentiment of passionate love Amoghasiddhi in crown	Amoghasiddhi in crown	—

\* Only Vajramitri is a male deity. All the other emanations are female.

# DIHYANI BUDDHA RATNASAMBHAVA—HIS EMINATIONS

GODS		GODDESSES	
JAMBHALA	UCCHUSHA JAMBHALA	VAIRATA	MAHAPRATHEARA
<i>Symbols</i>			
<i>Objects in hands</i>	With two principal hands embraces Vasudhara <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt & sword <i>L.h.</i> —emerald & lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt, noose, arrow, conch <i>L.h.</i> —lotus, bow, goad, raised turtant	<i>R.h.</i> —sword, thunderbolt, arrow, varada, parasol <i>L.h.</i> —bow, banner, jewel, battle-axe, conch
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	White	Golden yellow	Yellow
<i>Asana</i>	Adamantine pose	—	With one foot pendant (lalita)
<i>Hands</i>	Six	Eight	Ten
<i>Feet</i>	Three	Four	Three
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	Ratnasambhava in crown Celestial ornaments
<i>Other forms</i>	—	—	(1) <i>Four-faced, eight-armed:</i> <i>R.h.</i> —sword, wheel, trident, arrow <i>L.h.</i> —battle-axe, bow, noose, thunderbolt

GODDESSES		GODDESSES	
VALEDHARA	APARAJITA	VAIRAYOGINI	PRASANNATARA
<i>Symbols</i>			
<i>Objects</i>	Fans of corn <i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving pose <i>L.h.</i> —ears of corn on a vessel	Trampling upon Gaoela <i>R.h.</i> —slapping attitude (Chapatadana) <i>L.h.</i> —noose on index finger	<i>R.h.</i> —ritual wand, lotus, arrow, thunderbolt, goad, staff, knife, abhaya pose <i>L.h.</i> —noose with turtant, skull-cup, bow, ritual wand, thunderbolt, noose, head of Brahma, vessel of gems
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
<i>Asana</i>	—	Right foot raised (alidha) Two	Left foot raised (pratyaldha) Sixteen
<i>Hands</i>	Two	—	Eight
<i>Feet</i>	One	Nude	Necklace of heads
<i>Misc.</i>	Ratnasambhava in crown Decked in ornaments	Face awful, terrible, ferocious Destroyer of all wicked beings	—
<i>Other forms</i>	<i>One-faced, six-armed:</i> Lalita attitude <i>R.h.</i> —namaskara (attitude of adoration), boon-giving pose ears of corn <i>L.h.</i> —book, ears of corn, vessel containing jewels	(1) <i>Yellow Form:</i> yellow; two-armed; knife and skull-cup as symbols (2) <i>Red Form:</i> Colour—red Vehicle—corpse Symbols—thunderbolt & skull-cup Asana—alidha	—

## SAKTIS OF DHYANI BUDDHAS\*

	PANDARA (Fig. 2, Pl. 182)	MAMAKI (Fig. 3)	TARA (Fig. 5, Pls. 182, 188, 189)	LOCANA (Fig. 4)	VAJRADHATISVARĪ (Fig. 6, Pl. 180)
<i>Dhyani Buddha</i>	<i>Amittabha</i>	<i>Aksobhya</i>	<i>Anaghasiddhi</i>	<i>Vairocana</i>	<i>Ratnasambhava</i>
<i>Symbol</i>	Holds blue lotus	Holds flowers which support thunderbolt & skull-cup or two thunderbolts at shoulder level	Holds lotuses supporting double thunderbolts at shoulder level	Holds lotuses supporting Cintamani jewel and a triangle at shoulder level	Flowers supporting three muryūtrāpicchā (peacock feathers) at shoulder level
<i>Mudrā</i>	Vitaraka & boon-giving	Vitaraka & boon-giving	Vitaraka & boon-giving	Dharmachakra, boon-giving or vitaraka mudrās	Vitaraka & boon-giving
<i>Āsana</i>	With one foot pendant (lalita)	With one foot pendant (lalita)	With one foot pendant (lalita)	With one foot pendant (lalita)	With one foot pendant (lalita)
<i>Colour</i>	Rose	Blue	Green	White	Yellow

\* There is some controversy about the Saktis. Some regard Vajradhātisvarī as the Sakti of Vairocana, Locana of Aksobhya, and Māmaki of Ratnasambhava.

## PANCHAKRASHA MANDALA (FIVE PROTECTRESSES)

	MAHAPRATISARA	MAHASATIASAPRAMARDANI	MAHAMANTRANUSARINI	MAHASTAYATI	MAHAMAYURI
<i>Symbol</i>	Jewel	Discus	Thunderbolt	Lotus	Mendicant on bowl
<i>Āsana</i>	Adamantine pose	With one foot pendant	Adamantine pose	Seated with right knee raised (ardhaparyanka)	—
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	White	Blue	Red	Green
<i>Arms</i>	Twelve	Ten	Twelve	Eight	Eight
<i>Faces</i>	Four	Four	Three	Three	Three
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —jewel, discus, thunderbolt, arrow, sword & varada pose <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt, noose, trident, bow, axe & conch	<i>R.h.</i> —eight-spoked wheel on lotus, varada, goad, arrow, sword <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt, raised index finger (varjant), noose, bow & noose	1) Two hands in preching attitude 2) Two hands in meditation <i>R.h.</i> —thunderbolt & arrow, varada & abhaya poses <i>L.h.</i> —raised index finger with noose, bow, jewel, jar	<i>R.h.</i> —lotus with abhaya, arrow, thunderbolt & sword <i>L.h.</i> —noose with tarjant, bow, jewel banner, book against chest	<i>R.h.</i> —jewel, arrow, varada & sword <i>L.h.</i> —mendicant on bowl, bow, jar on lap showering jewels, banner marked with double thunderbolt & jewel



## THE TWELVE PARAMITAS

	RATNAPARAMITA	DANAPARAMITA	SILAPARAMITA	KṢANTIPARAMITA	VIṢAYAPARAMITA
<i>Symbols</i>	Moon on lotus	Ears of corn	Flowerly discus	White lotus	Blue lotus
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Colour</i>	Red	White-red	White	Green	Green
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —disc of moon on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —ears of corn	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —flowerly discus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —white lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —blue lotus

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	TRIVANAPARAMITA	PRĀJNAPARAMITA	UPAYAPARAMITA	PRASIDHANAPARAMITA	BALAPARAMITA
<i>Symbols</i>	White lotus	Manuscript on lotus	Thunderbolt on lotus	Sword on lotus	Manuscript
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Four	Two	Two	Two
<i>Colour</i>	Sky colour	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —white lotus	Two principal hands in dharmacakra mudrā <i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —manuscript on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —thunderbolt on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —sword on lotus	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —manuscript

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	JNANAPARAMITA	VAIRAKAPARAMITA
<i>Symbols</i>	Bodhi tree	Double thunderbolt on lotus
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two
<i>Colour</i>	White	Variegated
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi jewel <i>L.h.</i> —Bodhi tree	<i>R.h.</i> —flag with Cintāmaṇi tree <i>L.h.</i> —Double thunderbolt on lotus

TARAS OF FIVE COLOURS

GREEN TARA

	KHADRAVANSI TARA	VARVA TARA	ARVA TARA	MAHATARI TARA	VARADA TARA
<i>Asana</i>	—	With both legs pendant. (bhadrāsana)	Seated with right knee raised (ardhaparyāṅka)	Adamantine pose	Seated with right knee raised (ardhaparyāṅka)
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —boon-giving <i>L.h.</i> —night lotus	No companions	Alone	Alone	Avokakāntā Mārīci, Mahāmāyūrī, Ekajātā & Jāṅguli
<i>Companions</i>	Avokakāntā Mārīci			PARVASABARI	
<i>Asana</i>	DURGOTTARINI TARA	DHANADA TARA	JANGULI	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	—	—	—	Three faced, six-armed	—
	Four hands—boose & goad in first pair of hands; lotus & varada in second pair	First pair of hands—book & rosary; second pair—lotus & varada	Trident, peacock's feathers, snake & abhaya		

WHITE TARA

	ASTAMAHABHAYA	ABHITYUVANCANA TARA	CHATURBHUJA-STATA TARA	VISVAMATA	KURUKULLA	JANGULI
<i>Asana</i>	Seated with right knee raised	Adamantine pose	—	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	—	Wheel on her chest	Two hands in utpala mudra. Lotus and varada in other two	<i>R.h.</i> —abhaya <i>L.h.</i> —white lotus	Rosary and bowl of lotus	Plays lute with first pair of hands. White serpent and abhaya in second pair
<i>Companions</i>	Surrounded by ten goddesses	Alone	Mahāmāyūrī and Mārīci	—	—	—

YELLOW TARA

	VARATARA	JANGULI	PAENASABARI	BHISKUTI
<i>Asana</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Four-faced, eight-armed	Three-faced, six-armed	Three-faced, six-armed	One-faced, four-armed
<i>Companions and Mitr.</i>	Ten goddesses Ratnasambhava in crown	Absohya in crown	—	<i>R.h.</i> —varada and rosary <i>L.h.</i> —tridandi and vase

BLUE TARA

	ERAJATA	MAHACINA TARA
<i>Asana</i>	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Already described (p. 134)	—
<i>Companions and Mitr.</i>	Absohya in crown	Absohya in crown

RED TARA

Bears image of Amitābha in crown

## TWELVE VASITA GODDESSES

	AYURVASITA	CITTAVASITA	PAREKAVASITA	KARMAVASITA	UPPATIVASITA	RUDDHIVASITA
Symbol	Image of Buddha	Thunderbolt	Cintamani flag	Double thunderbolt	Creepers	Sun & moon on lotus
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Whitish-red	White	Yellow	Green	Mixed	Green
Objects in hands	R.h.—lotus L.h.—image of Buddha	R.h.—lotus L.h.—thunderbolt	R.h.—lotus L.h.—Cintamani flag	R.h.—lotus L.h.—double thunderbolt	R.h.—lotus L.h.—creepers	R.h.—lotus L.h.—sun & moon on lotus

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	ADHIMUKTIVASITA	PRANIDHANAVASITA	JNANAVASITA	DHARMAVASITA	TATHATAVASITA	BUDDHABODHIPRABHA-VASITA
Symbol	Priyangu flower	Blue lotus	Sword on lotus	Bowl of lotus	Bunch of jewels	Discus on banner
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	White	Yellow	Whitish-blue	White	White	Yellow
Objects in hands	R.h.—lotus L.h.—Priyangu flower	R.h.—lotus L.h.—blue lotus	R.h.—lotus L.h.—sword on lotus	R.h.—lotus L.h.—bowl on lotus	R.h.—lotus L.h.—bunch of jewels	R.h.—lotus L.h.—discus on banner

## TWELVE BHUMIS

	ADHIMUKTICARVA	PRAMUDITA	VIMALA	PRAHARARI	ARCSMATI	SUPURAJA
Symbol	Red lotus	Jewel	White lotus	Sun on lotus	Blue lotus	Emerald
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Red	Red	White	Red	Green	Yellow
Objects in hands	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—red lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—jewel	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—white lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—sun on lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—blue lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—emerald

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	ADHIMUKHI	DURANGAMA	ACALA	SADHUMATI	DHARMAMEGHA	SAMANTAPRABHA
Symbol	Manuscript	Double thunderbolt on double lotus	Thunderbolt on lotus	Sword on lotus	Manuscript	Image of Amitābha
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Yellow	Green	White	White	Blue	Red
Objects in hands	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—manuscript	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—double thunderbolt on double lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—thunderbolt on lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—sword on lotus	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—manuscript	R.h.—thunderbolt L.h.—image of Amitābha



## TWELVE DHARINIS

	KUMATI	BATNOLKA	USHBAIDAYA	MARI	PARNASABARI	JANGILI
Symbol	Ears of corn	Cintāmaṇi flag	Jar of moonstones	Needle & string	Peacock's feathers	Flowers
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Yellow	Red	White	Reddish-white	Green	White
Objects in hands	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—ears of corn	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—Cintāmaṇi flag	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—jar of moonstones	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—needle & string	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—peacock's feathers	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—flowers

	ANASTAMUKHI	CUNDA	PRASAVARDHANI	SARVAKARMAVARANA- VIBODHANI	AKSAYANACARANDA	SARVAHIDDHIDHARMA- KOSAVATI
Symbol	Jar	Rosary with vase	Sword	Thunderbolt	Basket	Trunk full of jewels
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Green	White	White	Green	Red	Yellow
Objects in hands	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—jar	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—rosary with vase	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—sword	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—thunderbolt	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—basket	R.h.—double thunderbolt L.h.—trunk

## FOUR PRATISAMVITS

	DHARMA-PRATISAMVITI	ARTHA-PRATISAMVITI	NIRUKTI-PRATISAMVITI	PRATIBHANA-PRATISAMVITI
Symbol	Goad & noose	Noose	Chain	Bell
Arms	Two	Two	Two	Two
Colour	Whitish-red	Green	Red	Green
Objects in hands	Goad & noose	Jewel & noose	Chain in two hands	Holds bell in two hands

## TEN BUDDHIST GODS OF DIRECTION

	YAMANTAKA	PRADYANTAKA	PADMAKATA	VEJISANTAKA	TAKKIRAJA
<i>Direction</i>	East	South	West	North	South-East
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	White	Red	Green	Blue
<i>Arms</i>	Six	Six	Six	Six	Six
<i>Faces</i>	Three	Three	Three	Three	Three
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other four hands—hammer marked with thunderbolt, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—staff marked with thunderbolt, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—red lotus, sword, jewel & discus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—thunderbolt, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—blue staff, sword, jewel & lotus

	NIADANDYA	MAHABALA	ACALA	LUNIRA	SUNBHARAJA
<i>Direction</i>	South-West	North-West	North-East	Up	Down
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue
<i>Arms</i>	Six	Six	Six	Six	Six
<i>Faces</i>	Three	Three	Three	Three	Three
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—blue staff, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—trident, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—sword, thunderbolt, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—yellow discus, sword, jewel & lotus	Two principal hands—Sakti. Other hands—thunderbolt, sword, jewel & lotus

## SIX BUDDHIST GODDESSES OF DIRECTION

	VAJRAKUCHI	VAJRAPAKI	VAIRABHUTA	VAIRAGHANTA	VENISAVIAYA	SUMBHA
<i>Symbol</i>	Goad	Noose	Chain	Bell	Discus	Noose of snake
<i>Direction</i>	East	South	West	North	Up	Down
<i>Colour</i>	White	Yellow	Red	Green	White	Blue
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Faces</i>	One	One	One	One	One	One
<i>Objects in hands</i>	R.h.—goad L.h.—raised index finger	R.h.—noose L.h.—raised index finger	R.h.—chain L.h.—raised index finger	R.h.—bell L.h.—raised index finger	R.h.—discus L.h.—raised index finger	R.h.—noose of snake L.h.—raised index finger

## EIGHT USNISA GODS\*

	VAIRAVENISA	RATAVENISA	PADMAVENISA	VIVANISA	TEJAVENISA	DHIVANISA
<i>Symbol</i>	Bhūtapāśa (earth-touching attitude)	Varada (boon-giving attitude)	Dhyanā (meditation)	Abhaya (protection)	Sun	Cintāmani flag
<i>Direction</i>	East	South	West	North	South-East	South-West
<i>Colour</i>	White	Blue	Red	Green	Whitish-red	Reddish-blue
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Shows bhūtapāśa mudrā	Shows varada mudrā	Shows dhyanā mudrā	Shows abhaya mudrā	R.h.—disc of sun L.h.—on hip	Holds Cintāmani flag with two hands
<i>Symbol</i>	Sword & book	Parasol				
<i>Direction</i>	North-West	North-East				
<i>Colour</i>	Sky-green	White				
<i>Objects in hands</i>	R.h.—sword L.h.—book	Holds chhatra (parasol) with two hands				

## SIX DAKINIS

	BUDDHA-DAKINI	VAJRA-DAKINI	KATNA-DAKINI	PADMA-DAKINI	KARMA-DAKINI	VISHVA-DAKINI
<i>Symbol</i>	Wheel, skull-cup & ritual wand	Thunderbolt, skull-cup, & ritual wand	Jewel, skull-cup & ritual wand	Lotus, skull-cup, & ritual wand	Sword, skull-cup & ritual wand	Double thunderbolt, skull-cup & ritual wand
<i>Colour</i>	White	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue

## EIGHT MOTHERS

	LASYA	MALA	GITA	SRJYA	PUSPA	DHUPA	DIPA	GANDUGA
<i>Symbol</i>	Mirror	Garland	Lyre	Dancing	Flower	Incense vase	Lamp	Perfume vase
<i>Colour</i>	White	Yellow	Red	Green	White	Yellow	Red	Green

## FOUR GODDESSES OF THE SEASONS

	SPRING (Vasantadevi)	SUMMER (Grishmadevi)	AUTUMN (Sharadevi)	WINTER (Hemantadevi)
<i>Symbol</i>	Sword & skull-cup	Battle-axe & skull-cup	Chopper & skull-cup	Hammer & skull-cup
<i>Vehicle</i>	Yellow mule	Blue yak	Deer	Camel
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue

\* All are with one face and two arms



## FOUR DANCE DEITIES

<i>Symbol</i>	LASYA	MALA (MALYA)	GITA	NRTYA
<i>Colour</i>	Lasya dance	Garland	Indian gong	Thunderbolt
<i>Arms</i>	Red	Red	Reddish-white	Mixed
<i>Mudra</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two
	Two hands arranged in Lasya act	Holds in her two hands garland of jewels	Two hands engaged in playing on the Indian gong	Two hands hold thunderbolt

## FOUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	VAKSA	VINA	MUKUNDA	MURAJA
<i>Colour</i>	Flute	Lute	Mukunda instrument*	Muraja instrument *
<i>Arms</i>	Red	Yellow	White	Smoky
<i>Mudra</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two
	Holds flute in two hands & plays on it	Plays on lute with two hands	Plays on instrument called Mukunda	Plays on Muraja instrument

## FOUR DOOR GODDESSES

<i>Symbol</i>	TALIKA	KUNCI	KAPATA	PATADHARINI
<i>Colour</i>	Lock	Key	Planks	Curtain
<i>Arms</i>	White	Yellow	Red	Blue
<i>Mudra</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two
	Holds the lock in her two hands	Holds the keys in two hands	Holds door planks in two hands	Holds curtain in two hands

## FOUR LIGHT GODDESSES

<i>Symbol</i>	SRVASHASTA	DIPA	KATINOLKA	TADITKARA
<i>Colour</i>	Sun	Light stick	Jewel	Lightning
<i>Arms</i>	White	Blue	Yellow	Green
<i>Mudra</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two
	Holds in her hands disc of the sun	Holds in her hands the light stick	Holds the jewel in her hands	Holds in her hands creeper-like lightning

\* Mukunda and muraja are the names of musical instruments.

## HINDU DEITIES OF VAJRAYANA

## THE PRINCIPAL GODS AND GODDESSES

	BRAHMA	VISHNU	MAHESVARA	KARTTIKEYA	VARAHI
<i>Symbol</i>	—	—	—	Han	Fish
<i>Vehicle</i>	Swan	Eagle	Bull	Peacock	Owl
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	—	White	Red	Blue
<i>Arms</i>	Four	Four	Four	Six	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two principal hands in añjali, carry rosary & lotus. Other two hands—staff & vase	Principal hands in añjali, conch. Other two—mace & bow	Principal hands in añjali over head. Other two—trident & skull-cup	Six faces. Four hands. Two in añjali mudrā in añjali mudrā <i>R.h.</i> —javelin & thunderbolt <i>L.h.</i> —holds horn	Two in añjali mudrā <i>R.h.</i> —robbita fish <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup

	CHAMUNDA	BEHNGI	GANAPATI
<i>Symbol</i>	—	—	Elephant-face
<i>Vehicle</i>	Corpse	—	Rat
<i>Colour</i>	Red	Blue	White
<i>Arms</i>	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Two in añjali mudrā <i>R.h.</i> —knife <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup	Two in añjali mudrā <i>R.h.</i> —rosary <i>L.h.</i> —vase	<i>R.h.</i> —trident & sweetmeat balls <i>L.h.</i> —battle-axe and radish (mūlaka)
<i>Other forms</i>			See page 151

## HINDU DEITIES OF VAJRAYANA (Contd.)

	MAHESVARA	GAŚAPATHIBHAYA (Probably Sakti of Gaśapati)	GAŚAPATI (as in Śūdharmāli)	NANDĪŚVARA
<i>Symbols</i>	Knife & skull-cup	—	—	Murajā drum
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	—	Mouse	—
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two	Twelve	Blue
<i>Āsana</i>	—	Dancing	Dancing in ardhaparyāṅka	Two
<i>Colour</i>	Blue	—	Red	—
<i>Faces</i>	One	One	—	—
<i>Objects in hands</i>	<i>R.h.</i> —knife (or trident) <i>L.h.</i> —skull-cup	Two hands in boon-giving & protection attitudes	<i>R.h.</i> —axe, arrow, goad, thunderbolt, sword & trident <i>L.h.</i> —wooden pestle, bow, ritual wand, skull-cup full of blood, skull-cup of dried meat & phatka (whip)	Sits on Murajā drum & plays on Murajā

*Other forms*

(1) *Four-armed*: knife & skull-cup in principal hands & sword & ritual wand in second pair

(2) *Six-armed*:

*R.h.*—knife, rosary, drum  
*L.h.*—skull-cup, trident, noose with thunderbolt

(3) *Seventeen-armed & eight-faced, 4-legs*:

*R.h.*—knife, thunderbolt, elephant-hide, sword, trident, sword, staff of Yama  
*L.h.*—skull-cup full of blood, elephant-hide, bell, goad, white chowrie, drum & human head surrounded by seven goddesses

See page 150



## HINDU DEITIES OF VAJRAYANA (Contd.)

## SARASVATI—HER FORMS

	MAHA-SARASVATI (Fig. 29)	VAJRAVINA-SARASVATI (Fig. 40)	VAJRASARADA (Fig. 41)	ARYA-SARASVATI (Pl. 165)	VAJRA-SARASVATI (Fig. 42)
<i>Symbols</i>	Boon-giving pose & lotus	Lotus	Lotus & book	Prajñāpāramitā on lotus	—
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Six
<i>Colour</i>	White	White	—	—	—
<i>Āsana</i>	—	—	—	—	With left leg raised (pratyāldha)
<i>Objects in hands</i>	R.h.—boon-giving pose L.h.—lotus	Lotus held in two hands	R.h.—lotus L.h.—book	L.h.—stalk of lotus on which is placed the Prajñāpāramitā book Objects in right hand not mentioned in Sādhana texts	R.h.—lotus with book, sword & knife L.h.—skull-cup of Brahmā, jewel & wheel

## THE NINE PLANETS

	ADITYA	CANDRA	MANGALĀ	BUDHĀ	BRHASPATI	SUKRĀ	SANI	RAHU	KETU
<i>Symbols</i>	Disks of the sun	Disks of the moon	Human head	Bow & arrow	Rosary & vase	Rosary & vase	Rod	Sun & moon	Sword & snake-noose
<i>Vehicle</i>	Chariot of seven horses	Swan	Goat	—	Frog or skull	Sits on lotus	Tortoise	—	—
<i>Colour</i>	Red	White	Red	Yellow	White	White	Blue	Reddish-blue	Blue
<i>Arms</i>	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two	Two
<i>Objects in hands</i>	R. & L.h.—disks of sun on lotus	R. & L.h.—disks of the moon on lotus	R.h.—kattāra (cutting) L.h.—severed human head	Bow & arrow in two hands	Rosary & vase in two hands	Rosary & vase in two hands	Holds the rod in two hands	Holds in two hands the sun & moon	Holds in two hands sword & noose of snake

# BUDDHIST DEITIES



Fig. 1. ĀDI-BUDDHA (Vajradhara)



Fig. 2. PĀṆḌARĀ



Fig. 3. MĀMAKĪ



Fig. 4. LOCANĀ

NOTE: These drawings of Buddhist deities are after old Nepalese drawings and may not tally in all respects with the descriptions in the Tables.





Fig. 5. TĀRĀ



Fig. 6. VAJRADHĀTĪŚVARĪ



Fig. 7. SAMANTABHADRA



Fig. 8. RATNASAMBHAVA





Fig. 9. VAJRASATTVA



Fig. 10. MAITREYA



Fig. 11. AKṢAYAMATI



Fig. 12. KṢITIGARBHA



Fig. 13. ĀKĀSAGARBHA OR KHARGARBHA



Fig. 14. GAGANAGAṆJA



Fig. 15. RATNAPĀṆI



Fig. 16. ŚĀGARAMATĪ





Fig. 17. VAJRAGARBHA



Fig. 18. MAHĀSTHĀMAPRĀPTA



Fig. 19. CHANDRAPRABHA



Fig. 20. JĀLINIPRABHA OR SURYAPRABHA





Fig. 21. AMITAPRAHA



Fig. 22. PRATIBHĀNAKṢA



Fig. 23. SARVASUKĀTAMONIṢṬHĀTĀMĀTĪ



Fig. 24. SARVANIRVĀṆA-VIṢKAMBHĪ



Fig. 25. GANDHAHASTI



Fig. 26. JÑĀNAKETU



Fig. 27. SURĀṅGAMA



Fig. 28. AMOGHASIDDHI





Fig. 29. MAÑJUŚRĪ



Fig. 30. NĀMASANGITI MAÑJUŚRĪ



Fig. 31. MAÑJUVAJRA



Fig. 32. SIMHANĀDA





Fig. 33. LOKANĀTHA



Fig. 34. HARIHARIVĀHANA



Fig. 35. HAYAORIVA



Fig. 36. JĀNGULI



Fig. 37. PARYASABARI



Fig. 38. UBHAYAVARAHANANA, A FORM OF MARICHI



Fig. 39. MAHASARASVATI



Fig. 40. VAJRAVJRA SARASVATI





Fig. 41. VAJRASĀRADĀ



Fig. 42. VAJRA SARASVATĪ

### JAIN TIRTHANKARAS AND DEITIES

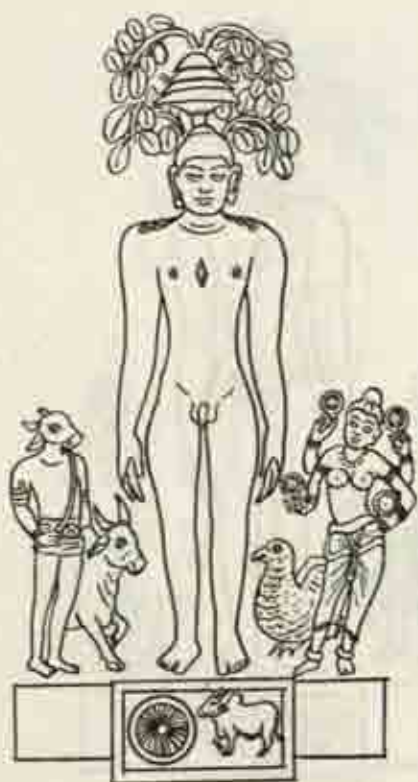


Fig. 43. RISHABHĀNĀTHA (Ādinātha)



Fig. 44. AJITANĀTHA



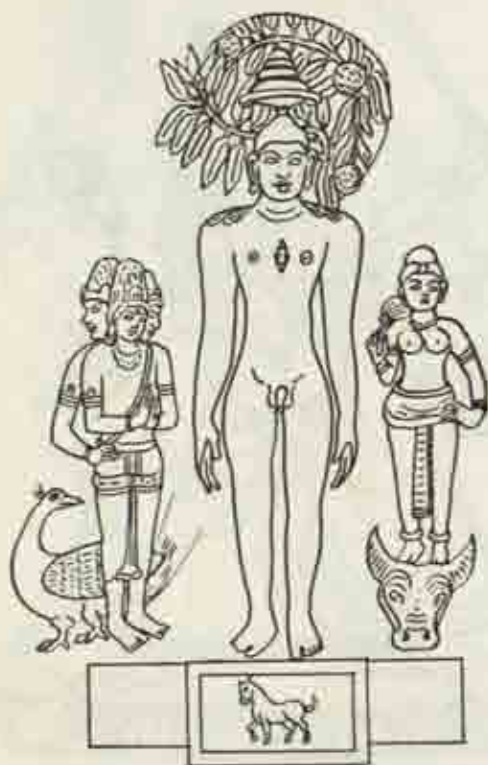


Fig. 45. SAMBHAVANĀTHA

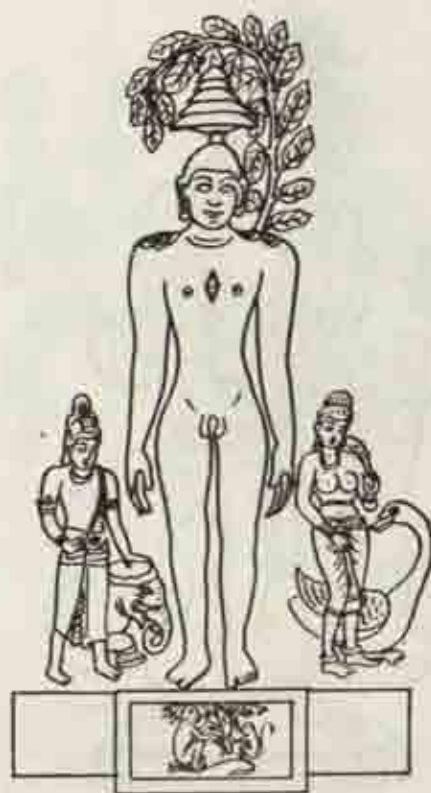


Fig. 46. ABHINANDANĀTHA

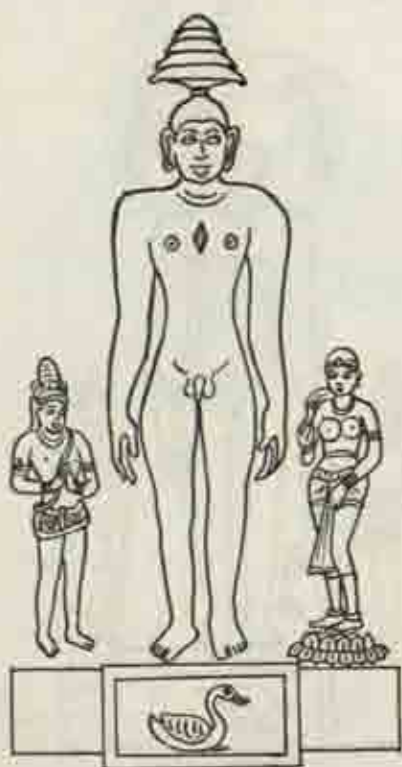


Fig. 47. SUMATINĀTHA

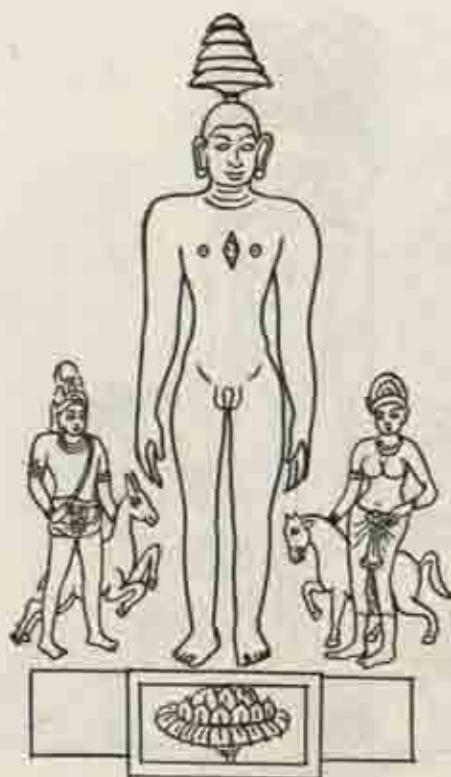


Fig. 48. PADMAPRABHA

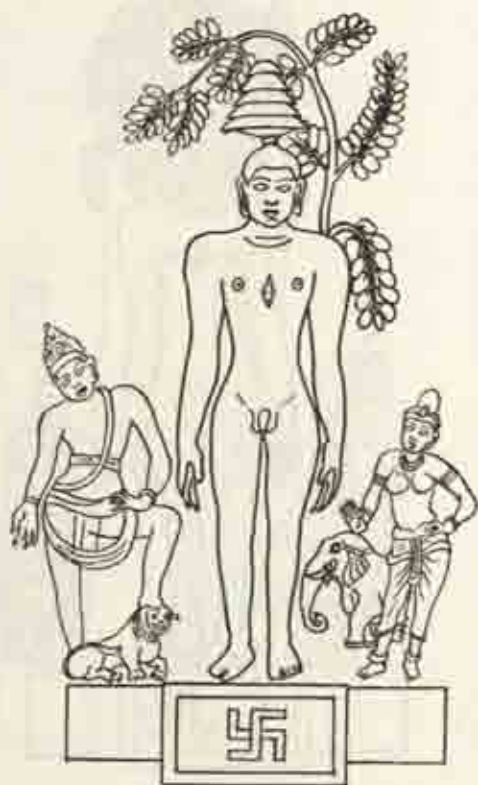


Fig. 49. SUPARSVANĀTHA

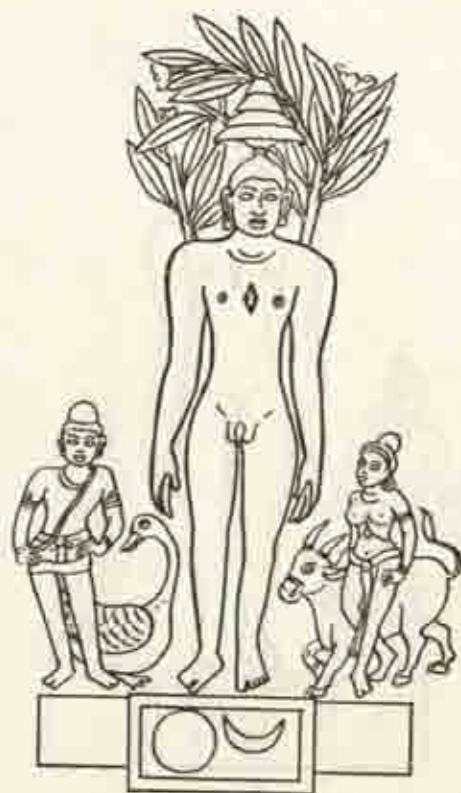


Fig. 50. CHANDRAPRABHA

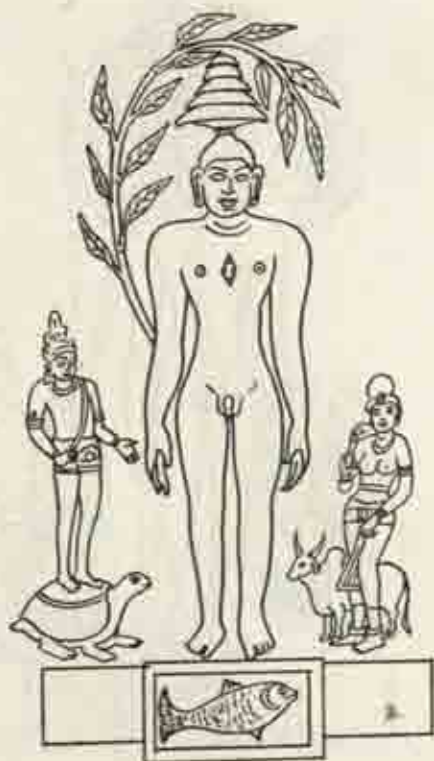


Fig. 51. SUVIDHINĀTHA (Pushpadanta)



Fig. 52. SITALANĀTHA

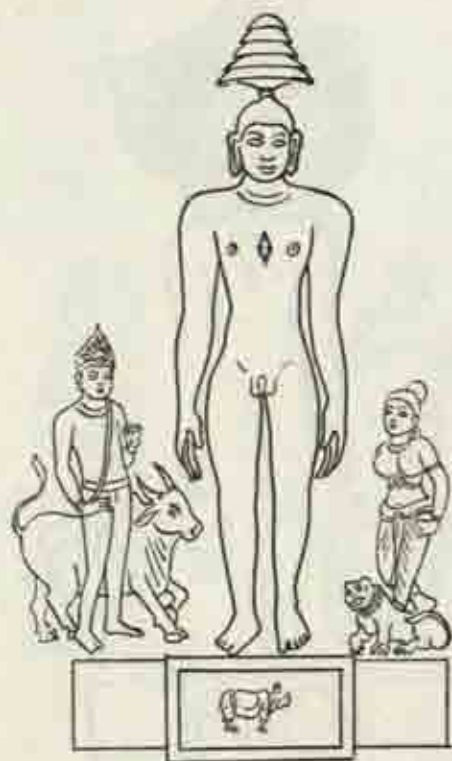


Fig. 53. SREYAMSUNĀTHA

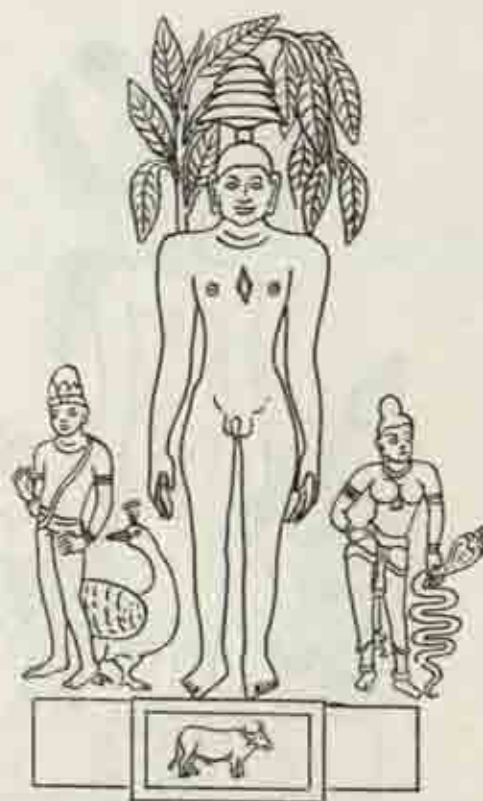


Fig. 54. VARUPUJYA

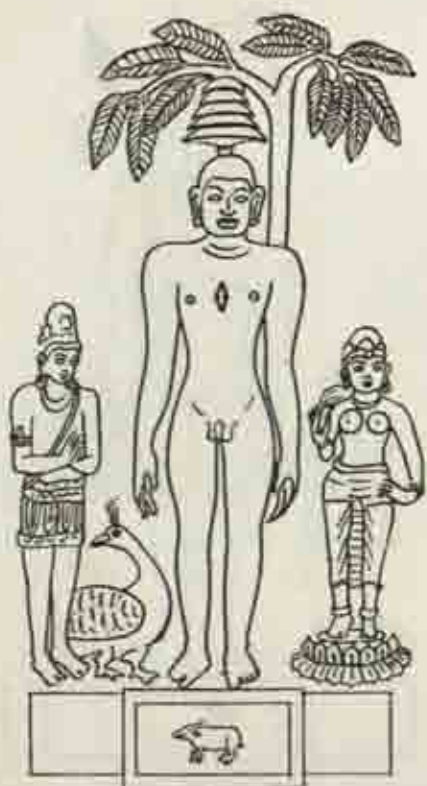


Fig. 55. VISALANĀTHA



Fig. 56. ANANTANĀTHA



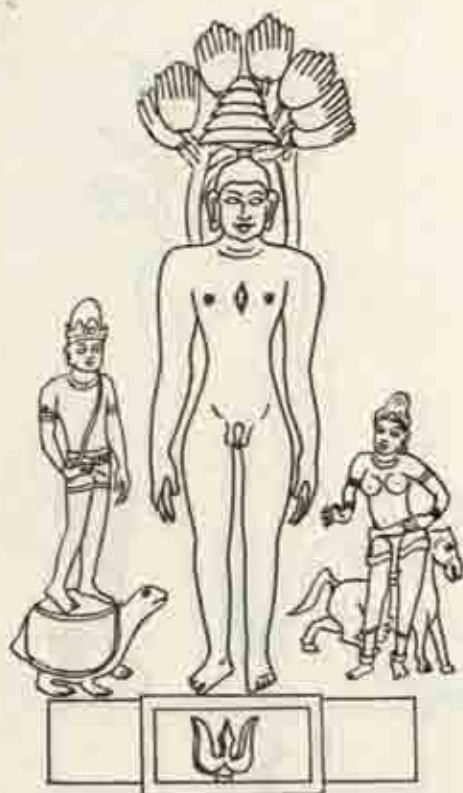


Fig. 57. DHARMANĀTHA



Fig. 58. ŚĀNTINĀTHA

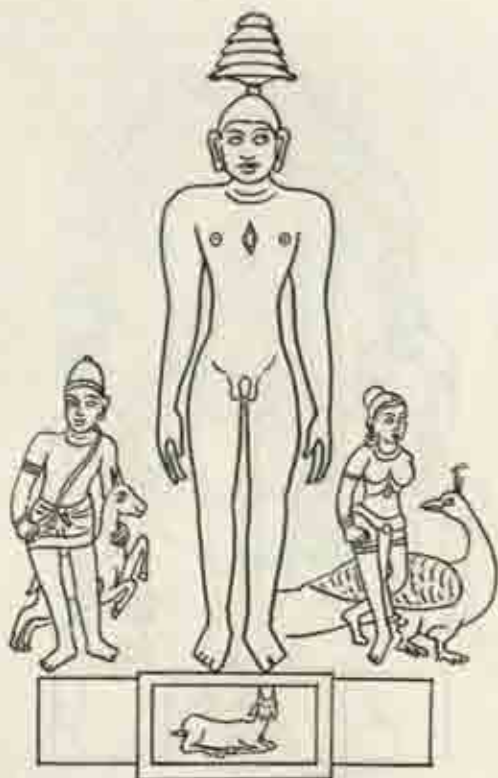


Fig. 59. KUNTHUNĀTHA

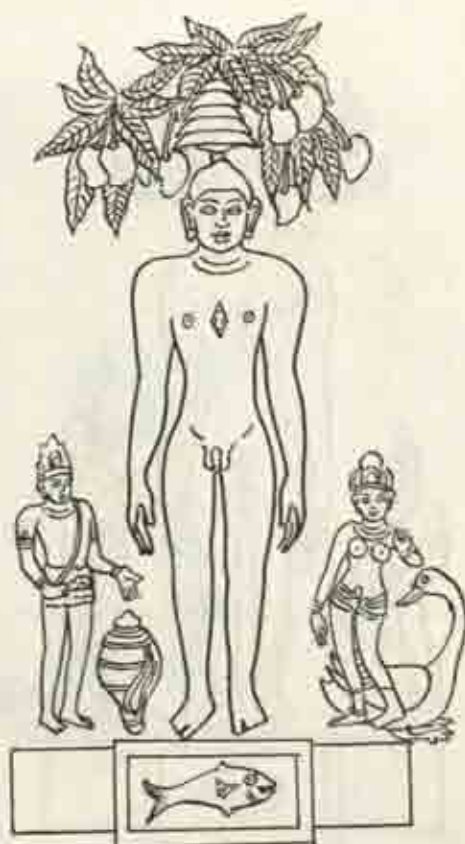


Fig. 60. ARANĀTHA

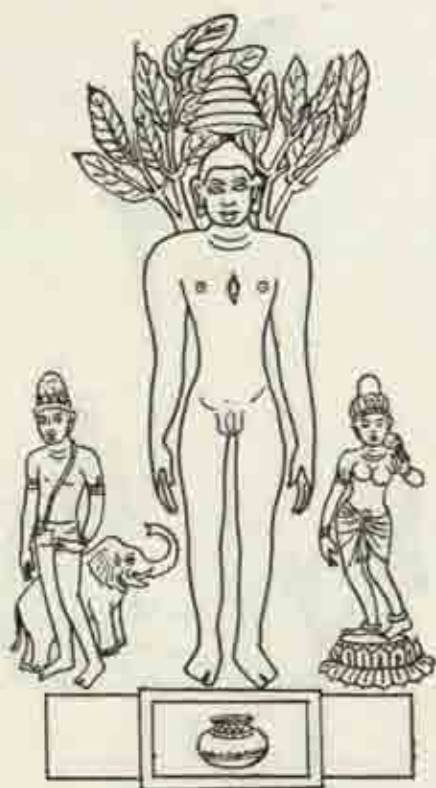


Fig. 61. MALLINĀTHA

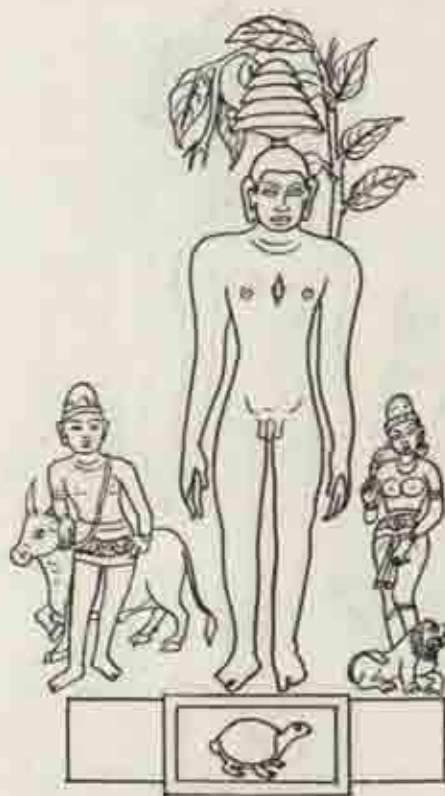


Fig. 62. MANISUVRATA

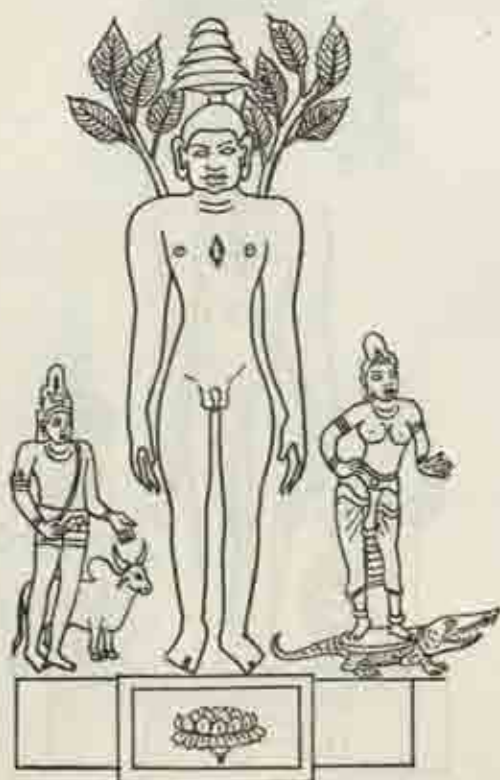


Fig. 63. NAMINĀTHA

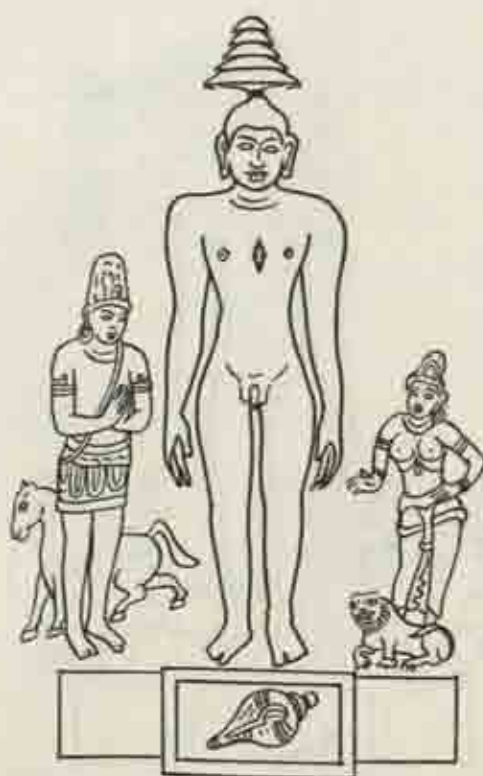


Fig. 64. NEMINĀTHA

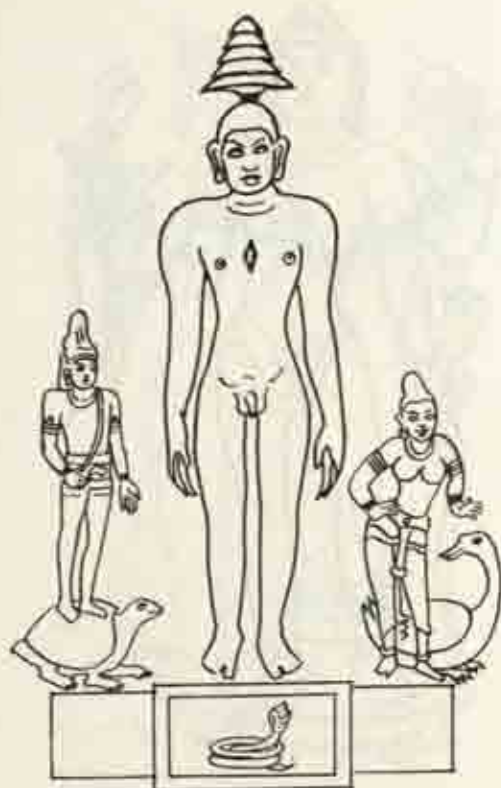


Fig. 65. PĀRSVANĀTHA

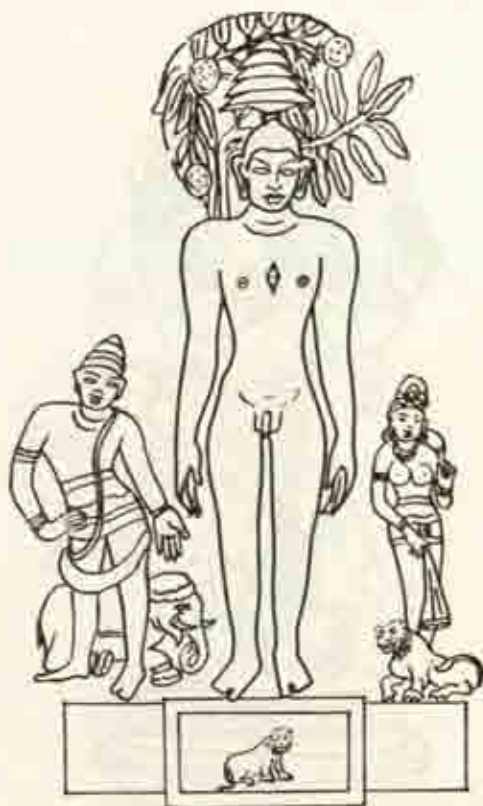


Fig. 66. MAHĀVIRA



Fig. 67. MĀTANGA YAKSHA



Fig. 68. SIDDHAYIKĀ DEVI





Fig. 69. ACHYUPTA YAKSHINI

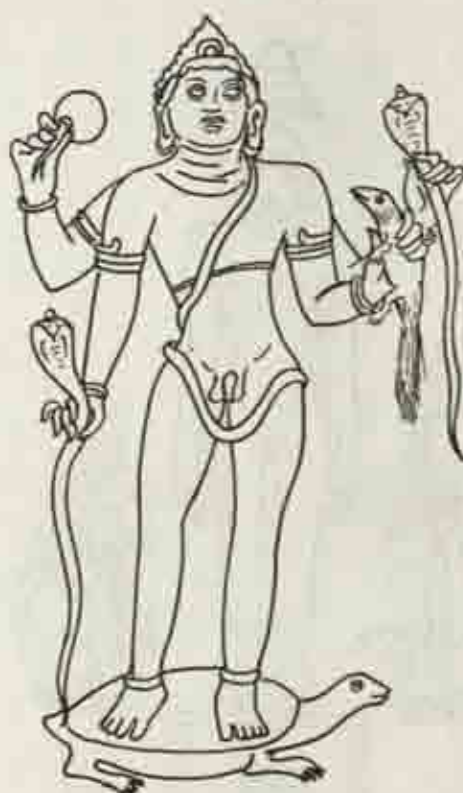


Fig. 70. PARSHVA YAKSHA



Fig. 71. VIDYA YAKSHA



Fig. 72. VAIROTI DEVI



Fig. 73. YAKSHESVARA YAKSHA



Fig. 74. MAHĀMĀNASI DEVI



Fig. 75. MĀNASI DEVI



Fig. 76. KUSUMA OR PUSHPA YAKSHA



Fig. 77. PATALA YAKSHA



Fig. 78. GANDHARVA YAKSHA



Fig. 79. GARUDA YAKSHA



Fig. 80. KINNARA YAKSHA





Fig. 81. GOMUKHA YAKSHA



Fig. 82. TUMBARA YAKSHA



Fig. 83. AMBIKĀ YAKSHINĪ



Fig. 84. SARASVATĪ

# JAIN ICONOGRAPHY

JAINISM is a non-Vedic school of philosophy which claims a hoary antiquity. Rishabhanātha, the first Tirthankara, is mentioned in the *Vishnu* and *Bhāgavata Purāṇas* as belonging to a very remote past. The earliest Brahmanic literature makes reference to a sect which defied the Vedas and opposed animal sacrifices. The *Yajurveda* mentions the names of three Tirthankaras—Rishabha, Ajita and Arishthanemi. The Jains claim that Neminātha, their 22nd Tirthankara, was a contemporary of Lord Krishna and that he belonged to the Yadava family. The Jains, however, became powerful only during the time of Parsvanātha, the 23rd Tirthankara, who is believed to have lived in the 8th century B.C.

Like Buddhism, Jainism does not accept the validity of the Vedas and Varnadharma, and holds all members of the community as equal. It observes a code of morality, and advocates a life of detachment with a view to escaping the birth cycle.

In later years, two sects arose: the Svetambara ('white-clad') and the Digambara ('space-clad' or 'naked').

## TWENTY-FOUR TIRTHANKARAS (Pls. 192-193, Figs. 43-66)

Jainism is much older than Mahāvira, the 24th Tirthankara. The Jains claim that their religion is as old as the Vedas. Since the Vedic times, it has been revealed by their twenty-four Tirthankaras. They are: Rishabhanātha (Rishabhadeva or Ādinātha), Ajitanātha, Sambhavanātha, Abhi-

nandanātha, Sumatmātha, Padmaprabha, Suparśvanātha, Chandraprabha, Pushpadaṇṭa or Suvidhinātha, Sitalanātha, Shreyamsunātha, Vasupujya, Vimalanātha, Anantanātha, Dharmanātha, Śāntinātha, Kunthunātha, Aranātha, Mallinātha, Manusuvrata, Naminātha, Neminātha, Pārśvanātha (Pl. 195, Fig. 65) and Mahāvira (Pl. 192, Fig. 66).

The icons in a Jain temple are arranged in a hierarchical order. The chief among them is a *mula-nāyaka* like Rishabhanātha, Suparśvanātha or Mahāvira, who is surrounded by other Jains. Two types of images are generally found: one, a relief containing one, three or twenty-four Tirthankaras; second, images of Tirthankaras in the round. A combination of three Tirthankaras, with the *mula-nāyaka* in the centre is called Tri-Tirthanka. The portrayal of twenty-four Tirthankaras is called *Chaturvimsati*. Besides these, there are other combinations also.

There are 24 Tirthankaras of the Past, 24 of the Present and 24 of the Future. The ones named here, and now found in temples are the 24 Tirthankaras of the Present.

The 24 Tirthankaras occupy the central position in the Jain hierarchy, being the only ones free from desires. The other gods obviously have desires and so have their heavens of enjoyment. This is an indication of the value the Jains give to asceticism.

The Tirthankara represents the higher ideal of asceticism, of self-denial. In sculptural representations they are shown like ascetics, draped or naked, in the two yogic postures—*pariyankāsana* and *kāyotsarga*.\* To a superficial observer, the

\* Standing upright in a pose of meditation with the feet on the ground and arms held downwards without touching the body.



image of a Jina and of a Buddha look alike. But there are important differences. The Tirthankaras generally have a Śrīvatsa (a triangular mole) symbol on the chest, a triple umbrella above their heads, and a lāñchhana or symbol on the parasol.

In the Kushāna period, these identifying symbols were not used. Neither were their attendant Yakshas and Yakshinis carved, the only exception being the Yakshini Ambikā. This statement is to be qualified: it does not apply to South Indian and Deccan images. It is from the Gupta period that attendant Yakshas and Yakshinis begin to accompany Jina icons, but the attendants are not universally found, nor their affiliation with various Jinās systematised. The Gandharvas and chauri-bearers also become common.

The Jinās are attributed with 21 Atisayas or supernatural elements: dharmachakra, fly-whisks, lion-seat, triple-umbrellas, an aureole, an Aśoka tree, etc.

According to the Jains, 22 of their Tirthankaras belonged to the Ikshvākuvaṃśa (race) and the other two, Munisuvrata and Neminātha, to the Harivaṃśa. All the Tirthankaras are cast into a uniform mould and reveal a stereotyped character. The legends relating to their births, renunciation and ultimate salvation are very similar. The only differences are those connected with their mothers' sixteen dreams, lāñchhanas, Yakshas, etc. Yakshas do not generally appear in traditional texts like *Purva Purāṇa*, *Uttara Purāṇa* and *Chavandaraya Purāṇa*. But they appear in *Pratishṭha* texts. They are mentioned in Puranic works not composed in Sanskrit, especially in the Karnataka area.

#### BAHUBALI GOMMATESVARA (Pl. 194)

Bahubali was the second son of Rishabhanātha and queen Sunandā. His step-brother was Bharata. Bahubali and Bharata succeeded to different parts of the empire after Rishabha retired. When Bharata began a career of conquest, he subdued many kings and demanded homage even from his brothers. Ninety-eight of his brothers renounced their worldly claims, and became monks, but Bahubali refused to submit to his brother. The two brothers met on the battle-field and fought a prolonged and tough duel. When Bahubali was about to achieve victory, he suddenly realised the futility of worldly existence and stopped fighting. He performed *mushtilocho* (penance),

plucking hair from his head, renounced all attachments, including garments, and became a monk.

He stood motionless, in the kāyotsarga attitude and endured the rigours of the elements. Years passed. Wild animals pulled and pushed him. Creepers grew round his body. Birds made nests on his head. Serpents built ant-hills and sauntered around his body. He stood unaware of all these. But in spite of this rigorous penance, he could not obtain Kevala-jñāna for he still remained attached to pride. His father Rishabhanātha instructed his daughters Brāhmī and Sundarī to go and ask him to give up his pride. On his doing this, Bahubali attained Kevala-jñāna (Knowledge). Bahubali is also called Gommata or Gommatesvara. Chāmunda-rāya, a Ganga general erected a huge image of Bahubali at Srāvana Belgola and this has been called Gommatesvara. Bahubali is popular in this name in South India in general and Karnataka in particular.

#### PARSVANATHA (Pl. 195, Fig. 65)

Pārśvanātha, the twenty-third Tirthankara, is said to have been born in the holy city of Banaras to Queen Vāmadevi and King Ashvasena in 817 B.C. Before his birth the queen saw a black snake crawling by the side of her bed. So she named him Pārśvanātha. From childhood, the prince had a soft corner for snakes. In his youth, he became a fearless warrior. Hearing of his many accomplishments, king Prasenjit of Ayodhya offered him his daughter Padmāvatī in marriage. The offer was accepted. In the meanwhile, the Yavana king of Kalinga, who had heard of the great beauty of the princess, and who therefore coveted her, came to the capital of Prasenjit and laid siege to it. Prince Pārśvanātha rushed to rescue the princess. He fought against the Kalinga king, defeated him and married Padmāvatī.

The *Digambara Purāṇas* mention Pārśvanātha as the son of king Ashvasena or Vishvasena and Brahmadevi. The queen's name is mentioned in some *Purāṇas* as Brahmīlā (*Sastrasarasamuccaya Tika*) or Brahmādattī (*Pārśvanātha Purāṇa*).

#### YAKSHAS (Pls. 193, 196, Figs. 67-83)

The Jain Yakshas are also known as Śāsana-devatās or attendant deities. They represent a class of semi-gods. The Yakshas existed in popular belief and in the literary tradition of the Hindus much earlier than the rise of Jainism or Buddhism.



Kubera or Vaiṣṇava, the king of the Yakshas, is referred to several times in Hindu literature. Many of his attendants are referred to in Jain canonical texts, viz., Pūrṇabhadra, Maṇibhadra, Sitalabhadra, Sumanabhadra, Laksharakṣa, Pūrṇarakṣa, Sūryaṇa, Sarvyaśas, Sarva Kāma, etc. Of these Maṇibhadra, whose other name is Yakṣendra or Yakṣapati attained much antiquarian importance on account of a discovery of his image in the frontier.

'A Yakṣa is a devotee of the Tirthankaras.' According to Jain belief, Indra appoints one Yaksha and one Yakshini to serve as attendants on each Tirthankara. The Yaksha would be on his right and Yakshini on his left. Thus, they also came to be called Śāsana-devatās or attendant spirits.

In later development, the Yaksha cult obtained greater veneration and so we find detached independent images of Yakshas among the ancient ruins.

#### YAKSHINIS (Pls. 197-200, Figs. 67-83)

The Yakshinis are the female attendants of the Tirthankaras, being the leaders of the women converts. They are endowed with semi-divine attributes. Their names and symbols indicate

Brahmanic influence. Many of the Yakshinis are also Vidyā-devīs, goddesses of learning. These too show influence of the Brahmanic female deities.

#### ŚRUTA-DEVI AND VIDYĀ-DEVIS

The Vidyā-devīs are sixteen in number. They are goddesses of learning. Besides these sixteen deities, the Jains also include one Śruta-devī or Sarasvatī closely approximating the Brahmanical goddess of the same name. She heads the sixteen goddesses of learning, 'Goddess of Śruti or revealed literature.' Her description reminds one of Brahmānī, who like Brahmā carries a book in her hands. Both hold in their hands the Vedas. On the Śukla Pañchami day of the Kārttika month (November) the Jains celebrate 'Jñāna Pañchami,' when devout people fast, worship books, etc.

Through the worship of the Vidyā-devīs, the devotee gets knowledge, character, religion, mental qualities, etc.

#### HINDU GODS AND GODDESSES

Hindu deities appear as subordinate gods and goddesses in the Jain pantheon.

THE TIRTHANKARAS  
(Figs. 43-66)

TIRTHANKARA	COLOUR	COGNIZANCE	SPECIAL TREE	ATTENDANT VAKSHA	ATTENDANT YAKSHINI	MISCELLANEOUS
✓ 1. RISHABHIANATHA (Ādinātha)	Golden	Bull and Dharmachakra	Nyagrodha (Indian banyan tree)	Gomukha Vehicle—Bull (Elephant)	Chakresvari Vehicle—Eagle	Bharata and Bāhubali worshippers
2. AJITANATHA	Golden	Elephant	Kevāla-vriksha (special tree)	Mahayaksha Vehicle—Elephant	Ajitabala	Sagaracakri—chauri- bearer
3. SAMBHAVANANATHA	Golden	Horse	Śāla tree ( <i>Shorea robusta</i> )	Trinukha Vehicle—Peacock	Duritari (Prāṇāpti) Vehicle—Buffalo, Peacock (?)	Satyavirya—chauri- bearer
4. ABHINANDANATHA	Golden	Ape	Priyangu or Sanas- majamule or Vesali	Ivara Vehicle—Peacock	Kāli or Vārasā-pinkhalā Vehicle—Lotus or Goose	Kālyanārga
5. SUMATINATHA	Red, Golden	Curlw (Krauncha) or Red-geese (Chakravāka)	Priyangu	Tumburu	Mahākālī (Pūrisada(ta)) Vehicle—Lotus	Miravirya—chauri- bearer
6. PADMAPRABHA	Blood-red	Lotus (Padma)	Śrīsa or Priyangu	Kusuma Vehicle—Deer or Bull	Śyāma Vehicle—Man or Horse	Yamadyuti—chauri- bearer
7. SUPARVANATHA	Golden, Harita Pacche	Swastika	Sushira	Mānaga (S), Varanandi (D), Vehicle —Elephant or Lion	Śānti (S) Kati (D) Vehicle—Elephant	Dharmavirya—chauri- bearer
8. CHANDRAPRABHA	White	Moon or crescent	Nāgaḍrama	Vijaya Vehicle—Goose	Brhkurī Vehicle—Lion, Bull or Cat	Dānavirya—chauri- bearer
9. SUVIDHINATHA OR PUSHPADANTA	White	Dolphin (Makara) or crab	Nāga or Malli	Ajita Vehicle—Tortoise	Sutāri, Mahākālī (D) Vehicle—Bull (?)	Maghavataraṇya—chauri- bearer
10. ĪTALANATHA	Golden	Srīvriksha (Wishing tree) or Asvattha ( <i>Ficus religiosa</i> )	Vilva ( <i>Aegle marmelos</i> )	Brahmā Vehicle—Lotus	Aloka, Mānavi (D) Vehicle—Lotus (?)	—
11. SBREYANUNMATHA	Golden	Rhinoceros or deer	Tumbara or Tindaka	Yakshesa (S) Yaksheswara (D) Vehicle—Bull	Mānavi (S), Gauri (D) Vehicle—Lion or Bull	Rājā Tripistā Vāsuḍeva
12. VASUPUṆYA	Red	Buffalo	Patalika or Kadamba	Kumāra Vehicle—Goose or Peacock	Garuda Yakshi (D) Vehicle—Horse or Serpent	Dīrpistā-Vasudeva- chauri-bearer

S = Śvetāmbara D = Digāmbara

## THE TIRTHANKARAS (Contd.)

TIRTHANKARA	COLOUR	COGNIZANCE	SPECIAL TREE	ATTENDANT YAKSHA	ATTENDANT VAKSHIN	MISCELLANEOUS
13. VIMALANATHA	Golden	Roar	Jambū (Blackberry)	Shamukha Vehicle—Peacock	Vairoṣṇi Vehicle—Lotus	Svayambhū-Vasudeva- chauri-bearer
14. ANANTANATHA	Golden	Hawk (S) Bear (D)	Ayasthī	Paṭala Vehicle—Crocodile	Anantamatī Vehicle—Lotus or Goose	Puruṣottama-Vasudeva- chauri-bearer
15. DHARMANATHA	Golden	Vajra-daṇḍa (Thunderbolt)	Dadhīparṇa or Sapta-chāṇḍa	Kinnara Vehicle—Tortoise or Fish	Kandarpa (S) Mānavi (D) Vehicle— Horse, Lion or Goose	Puṇḍarika-Vasudeva- chauri-bearer
16. SANTINATHA	Golden	Deer or Tortoise	Nandī Vriksha	Gaṇḍa (D) Vehicle—Boar or Bull	Mhāmānāṭ (D), Nirvaṇi (S) Vehicle—Peacock Lotus or Lion	Rājā Puruṣadattā- chauri-bearer
17. KUNTHUNATHA	Golden	Goat	Tilakataru	Gandharva Vehicle—Goose or Deer	Vijayā (D) Vehicle—Peacock	Kundala-chauri- bearer
18. ARANATHA	Golden	Nandiyavarta or Fish	Mango tree	Mahendra Vehicle—Conch or Peacock	Vijayadevi Vehicle—Lotus or Goose	Govind Rājā- chauri-bearer
19. MALLINATHA	Golden	Water-jar	Aśoka	Kubera Vehicle—Elephant	Dharmapriyā (S) Aparājita (D) Vehicle —Lotus or Goose	Rājā Sūlāma-chauri- bearer
20. MANUSVATA	Bluish-black (Indranila or syama varṇa)	Tortoise	Chāmpaka	Varuṇa Vehicle—Bull (?)	Naradattā (S) Bhadrupī (D) Vehicle— Lion or Serpent	Ajitā-chauri-bearer
21. NAMINATHA	Golden	Blue lotus or Aśoka tree	Vakula	Bhrikuti Vehicle—Bull (?)	Gandhārī (S) Chānuvālī (D) Vehicle—Goose (?) or Crocodile	Vijaya Rājā- chauri-bearer
22. NEMINATHA	Bluish-black (Indra- nila or syama)	Conch	Mahaveṇu or Vetasa	Gomedha (S), Sarvama (D) Vehicle —Man or Horse	Ambikā or Kūhman- dī (D) Vehicle—Lion	King Ugrasena-chauri- bearer
✓ 23. PARSVANATHA	Blue	Snake	Dhātaki	Dharaṇḍra	Padmavati Vehicle—Cock or Goose	Ajitarāja
24. MAHAVIRA	Golden	Lion	Sāla ( <i>Shorea robusta</i> )	Māṇḍa Vehicle—Elephant	Siddhāyika Vehicle—Lion or Goose	Śreṇika-chauri-bearer



## JAIN YAKSHAS

	COMUEHA (Fig. 81)	MAHAYAKSHA	TRIMUKHA	YAKSHESVARA (Fig. 73)	TUMBUKU (Fig. 82)	KUSUMA OR PUSHPA (Fig. 76)
<b>Hands</b>	Four	Eight	Six	Four	Four	Four
<b>Attributes in hands</b>	R.h.—boon-giving and rosary L.h.—noose (S) Battle-axe (D)	(S.) R.h.—boon-giving, club, rosary and noose L.h.—citrus, protection, goat and śakti	(S.) R.h.—mongoose, club and protection L.h.—citrus, garland and rosary (D.) R.h.—disc, sword, goat L.h.—staff, trident, dagger	(S.) R.h.—citrus and rosary L.h.—mongoose and goat (D.)—bow, shield, arrow and sword	S.—boon-giving, spear (śakti), club and noose D.—two snakes, fruit, and boon-giving	(S.) R.h.—fruit and the posture of protection pose L.h.—rosary and mongoose (D.)—lance, boon- giving posture, shield and protection, pose Antelope or bull White or dark
<b>Vehicle</b>	Bull	Elephant	Peacock	Elephant	Eagle (Garuda) or a lion	Antelope symbolises quickness in movement
<b>Colour</b>	Golden	Green (S) Golden (D)	Dark-blue (Śyāma)	Blue or dark-blue	Dark-blue or golden	White or dark
<b>Misc.</b>	Attached to Rishabha- nātha. Digambaras assign Dharmacakra symbol to his head. Bull-face and bull as vehicle Two types of images— one in the round and large in size; the other in the miniature form attending on Adinātha	(D.) L.h.—disc, trident, lotus, goat R.h.—sword, staff, axe, and boon-giving Four faces Attendant of Ajitanātha	Three faces. Separate sculptures not found Seen in the miniature form. Attendant of Sambhavanātha	Attendant of Abhinan- dana. No separate sculp- tures are found but sculptures of Abhinan- dana include figurines of Yaksheshvara, King of Yaksha	Attached to Sumati- nātha. In Hindu litera- ture, Tumburu is a divine musician His Yakshini is Purusha- dattā (D). Her vehicle is red goose	

S=Śvetāmbara

D=Digāmbara

	MATANGA OR VARANANDI (Fig. 67)	VIDAYA OR SHIVAMA (Fig. 71)	AJITA	BRAHMA	ISHVARA	KUNARA
<b>Hands</b>	Four	Four	Four	Four or eight	Four	Four (S), Six (D)
<b>Attributes in hands</b>	S.—Bilva fruit, noose, mongoose, and gourd D.—Staff, spear, Swastika and flag	D.—Fruit, rosary, axe and boon-giving pose S.—Two hands hold disc and club	S.—Citrus, rosary, mongoose and spear D.—Śakti, boon-giving posture, fruit and rosary	S.—Citrus, club, noose, protection, mace, goad and rosary D.—Bow, staff, sword, shield, boon-giving, etc.	S.—Mongoose, rosary, staff and fruit D.—Trident, staff, rosary and fruit	D.—Bow, ichneumon, club, fruit and boon- giving posture S.—Citrus, arrow, mongoose and bow Swan
<b>Vehicle</b>	Elephant (S) Lion (D)	Swan	Tortoise	Lotus seat	Bull	Swan
<b>Colour</b>	Blue or black	Dark-blue	White	White	White	White
<b>Misc.</b>	Mānanga is elephant- rider The Digāmbara texts mention only two of his hands with a trident and a danda	Sculptures of Chandra- prabha include the figures of Śyāma Yaksha. One of the earliest images of Śyāma in the round has been found at Aihole	He is also attributed with four faces, three eyes	He is also attributed with four faces, three eyes	Three eyes. His Yakshini is Gauri (D) or Mānavi (S). He rides an ele- phant. Yaksha of Śreya- masynātha	Digāmbara texts attri- bute to him three heads and six hands

## JAIN YAKSHAS (Contd.)

	SHANMUKHA OR CHATURMUKHA	PATALA (Fig. 77)	KENARA (Fig. 80)	GARUDA (Fig. 79)	DANDHARVA (Fig. 78)	KHENDRA OR YAKSHENDRA OR JAYA
<i>Hands</i>	Eight or twelve	Six	Six	Four	Four	Twelve
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	S.—Fruit, disc, arrow, sword, noose, rosary, mongoose, discus, bow, fruit, goad and protection pose D.—Axe, acininar rosary, shield, staff, etc	S.—Lotus, sword, noose, mongoose, fruit, rosary D.—Goad, spear, bow, rope, plough and fruit	S.—Lotus, citrus, mon- goose, rosary, mace. protection pose D.—Disc, thunderbolt, goad, club, rosary, and boon-conferring posture	S.—Citrus, lotus, mon- goose, rosary D.—Lotus, fruit, thun- derbolt and discus	S.—Boon-giving, noose, citrus, goad D.—Snake, noose, bow and arrow	S.—Citrus, arrow, sword, club, noose, abhaya, bow, mon- goose, fruit, spear, goad and rosary D.—Bow, thunderbolt, noose, club, goad, boon- conferring posture, fruit, arrow, garland, etc.
<i>Vehicle</i>	Peacock	Dolphin or Makara	Tortoise (S), Fish (D)	Bull or Boar or Elephant or Garuda	Bird or Swan (S)	Conch or Peacock
<i>Colour</i>	White or Dark-blue	Red	Red	Blue or Dark-blue	Dark-blue	Dark-blue or Blue
<i>Misc.</i>	Four or six-headed. Has the designation and attributes of Kārtikeya	Three faces. A canopy of three-hooded snake. Presiding spirit of the Nāgas	Three faces	Attendant of Śantinātha	—	Six faces, three eyes and ten hands are attributed to him by some texts

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	KUBERA	VARUNA	BHRIKUTI	BARVARNA OR GOMEDHA	PARSHVA OR DHARANENDRA (Fig. 70)	MATANGA (Pl. 193, 196, Fig. 67) Other Form
<i>Hands</i>	Eight or twelve	Four (D), Eight (S)	Eight	Six	Four	Two
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	S.—Varada, axe, spear, abhaya, citrus, sakti, club and rosary D.—Shield (Phalaka) bow, staff, lotus, sword, arrow, axe, noose and varada	S.—Citrus, mace, arrow, spear, lotus, mongoose, bow and axe D.—Shield, sword, fruit, boon-giving pose	S.—Citrus, spear, mace, abhaya, axe, mongoose, vajra, rosary D.—Shield, sword, bow, arrow, goad, lotus, disc, boon-conferring posture	S.—Citrus, axe, mon- goose, trident, spear D.—Hammer, axe, staff, fruit, thunderbolt and the boon-giving posture	S.—Ichneumon, snake, citrus, snake D.—Snake, noose, boon- giving posture	S.—Mongoose and citron D.—Boon-conferring posture and fruit
<i>Vehicle</i>	Elephant	Bull or Makara	Bull	Man or a Flower	Tortoise	Elephant
<i>Colour</i>	Kumuk or red or rainbow colour	White	Red	Dark-blue	Black or Blue	Blue or Green
<i>Misc.</i>	Four faces	Three-eyed and matted hair	Four faces. This Yaksha is also called Nandiga and seems to have con- nection with Nandi, the vehicle of Śiva	Three faces. Also known as Pushpayāna. (This means he has a flower as his vehicle)	Also a snake canopy over his head	Dharmachakra symbol on his head (See page 179)

S=Śvetambara

D=Digambara

## JAIN YAKSHINIS

	CHAKRESVARI (Pl. 198)	AJITA OR ROHINI	DURITARI (Sve.) OR PRANAPATI (Dig.) (Pl. 199)	VAJRA-SRIMEHALA (Dig.) OR KALI (Sve.)	MAIAKALI (Sve.) OR PULSADATTI (Dig.)	ACHYUTA OR SYAMA (Sve.) & MANOVEGA (Dig.)
<i>Hands</i>	Eight	Four	Four or six	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sve.—varada, arrow, disc, noose, bow, vajra (thunderbolt), disc, goad Dig.—4 or 12. If 4, holds 2 discs. If 12, eight discs, citrus, varada and two vajras	Sve.—varada, noose, citron, goad Dig.—varada, abhaya, conch, disc	Sve.—varada, rosary, fruit, abhaya pose Dig.—axe, crescent, fruit, sword and varada pose	Sve.—varada, noose, snake & goad Dig.—snake, noose, rosary, fruit	Sve.—varada, noose, citrus, goad Dig.—disc, vajra, fruit, varada pose	Sve.—varada, viola, bow, abhaya pose Dig.—sword, lance, fruit and varada pose
<i>Vehicle</i>	Eagle	Iron seat (Dig.) Bull (Sve.)	Ram (Sve.) Bird (Dig.)	Swan (Dig.) Lotus (Sve.)	Lotus (Sve.) Elephant (Dig.)	Man (Sve.) Horse (Dig.)
<i>Colour</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Śāsanadevi of first Tirthankara. Resembles Vaishnavi (Vishnu-Chakresvara)	Connected with Jina Ajitanātha. Ajita means invincible	Duritiart connected with wife of Agni. Conception of Prajāpati derived from Sarasvatī (Sve.)	Yakshini of Abhimandana. She is both Yakshini and Vidyā-devi	—	May have originated from Achyuta or Vishnu

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	SHANTA (Sve.) OR KALI (Dig.)	BIHKUTI (Sve.) OR JVALAMALINI (Dig.) (Pl. 200)	SUTARA (Sve.) OR MAIAKALI (Dig.)	ASOKA (Sve.) OR MANAVI (Dig.)	GAURI (Dig.) OR MANAVI (Sve.)	CHANDA (Sve.) OR GANDHARI (Dig.)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four or eight	Four	Four (Sve.)	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Dig.—varada, trident, fruit, bell Sve.—varada, rosary, lance, abhaya pose	Sve.—sword, club, spear, axe Dig.—disc, arrow, noose, shield, trident, sword, bow, etc.	Sve.—varada, rosary, urn, goad Dig.—vajra, club, fruit & varada pose	Sve.—varada, noose, fruit, goad Dig.—fruit, varada, bow, etc.	Sve.—varada, club, urn, goad Dig.—club, lotus, urn, varada pose	Sve.—varada, spear, flower, club Dig.—club, two lotuses, varada pose
<i>Vehicle</i>	Elephant (Sve.) Bull (Dig.)	Cat (Sve.) Buffalo (Dig.) or Swan	Bull (Sve.) Tortoise (Dig.)	Lotus (Sve.) Hog (Dig.)	Lion (Sve.) Antelope (Dig.)	Horse (Sve.) Crocodile (Dig.)
<i>Colour</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Wife of Mallanga Also a Vidyā-devi	—	—	Also a Vidyā-devi	Originated from Gauri, wife of Śiva	—

Sve.—Śvetāmbara

Dig.—Digāmbara



## JAIN YAKSHINIS (Contd.)

	VIDITA, VIJAYA (Sve.) OR VAIROTI (Dig.)	AMRUBA (Sve.) OR ANANTAMATI (Dig.)	KANDARPA (Sve.) OR MANASI (Dig.)	SIRVANI (Sve.) OR MAHAMANSI (Dig.)	BALA (Sve.) OR VIJAYA (Dig.)	DIHANI (Sve.) OR TARA (Dig.)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four or six (Dig.)	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sve.—arrow, noose, bow, snake Dig.—two snakes, bow, arrow	Sve.—sword, noose, spear, goad Dig.—bow, arrow, fruit, varada pose	Sve.—lotus, goad, lotus & abhaya pose Dig.—lotus, bow, varada, goad, arrow, lotus	Sve.—book, lotus, vase, lotus bud Dig.—disc, fruit, sword (?), varada pose	Sve.—citron, spear, musandi, lotus Dig.—conch, sword, disc & varada pose	Sve.—citrus, two lotuses, rosary Dig.—snake, vajra, deer, varada pose
<i>Vehicle</i>	Lotus (Sve.) Snake (Dig.)	Lotus (Sve.) Swan (Dig.)	Horse or fish (Sve.) Tiger (Dig.)	Lotus (Sve.) Peacock (Dig.)	Peacock (Sve.) Black boar (Dig.)	Lotus (Sve.) Swan (Dig.)
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	Vairoti is also a Vidyadevi, Vidita means 'learned one'	—	—	Mahāmanasi means 'great goddess of learning'. This seems to connect her with Sarasvati	—	—

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	VAIROTI (Sve.) OR APARAJITA (Dig.)	NARADATTA (Sve.) OR BAHURUPINI	GANDHARI (Sve.) OR CHAMUNDA (Dig.)	AMRUBA (Sve.) OR AMRA (Dig.) (Fig. 83)	PADMAVATI	MIDHAYIKA (Pl. 197, Fig. 68)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sve.—varada, rosary, citrus, sakti Dig.—citrus, sword, shield, varada pose	Sve.—varada, rosary, citron, trident (or urn) Dig.—shield, fruit, sword, varada pose	Sve.—varada, citron, sword, spear Dig.—rosary, staff, shield, sword	Sve.—mangoes, noose, child, goad Dig.—mangoes and child	Sve.—lotus, noose, fruit, goad Dig.—goad, rosary, two lotuses	Book, abhaya pose, citrus & lute
<i>Vehicle</i>	Lotus (Sve.) Lion (Dig.)	Bhadraśana (Sve.) Black snake (Dig.)	Swan (Sve.) Dolphin (Dig.)	Lion (Sve.) Lion (Dig.)	Snake & cock (Sve.) & Dig.), lotus (Dig.)	Lion
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	—	Yakshini of Mahāvra	—
<i>Variations</i>	—	—	—	—	Dig. 1—Six-handed; noose, sword, spear, crescent, club, staff Dig. 11—24-handed; conch, sword, wheel, crescent, lotus, blue lotus, bow, spear, noose, kusā-grass, bell, arrow, staff, shield, trident, axe, vajra, garland, fruit, club, leaf, stalk & varada pose	—

## SRUTA-DEVI AND SIXTEEN VIDYA-DEVIS

	SARASWATI (SRUTA-DEVI) (Fig. 84)	ROHINI	PRANAPATI	VAJRA-SHIMHALA	VAJRAKUBA	APRATICHAKRA OR JAMBUNADA
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Two or four	Two or four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Lotus, varada, book, rosary	Sve.—conch, rosary, bow, arrow Dig.—urn, conch, lotus, fruit	Sve. I—lotus & spear, II—varada, spear, citrus, spear Dig.—sword, disc	Sve. I—chain & club II—varada, chain, lotus, chain Dig.—chain	Sve. I—sword, vajra, shield, spear II—varada, vajra, citrus & goad Dig.—goad and lute	Sve.—discs in all four Dig.—sword, spear
<i>Vehicle</i>	Swan (Sve.) Peacock (Dig.)	Cow (Sve.)	Peacock	Lotus	Elephant (Sve.) Aerial car (Dig.)	Eagle (Sve.) Peacock (Dig.)
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—

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	PURUSADATTA	KALI	MAHAKALI	GANDHARI	GAURI	MAHAVALA OR JYALAMALINI
<i>Hands</i>	Two or four	Two or four	Four	Four	Four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	Sve. I—sword, shield II—varada, sword, citrus, shield Dig.—vajra and lotus	Sve. I—club, varada II—rosary, club, vajra, abhaya Dig.—staff, sword	Sve. I—rosary, fruit, bell, varada II—rosary, vajra, abhaya, bell Dig.—bow, sword, fruit, weapon	Sve.—staff, vajra, or vara, staff abhaya & vajra Dig.—disc, sword	Sve.—varada, club, rosary, water-lily Dig.—lotus	Sve.—attributes not mentioned Dig.—bow, shield, sword, disc
<i>Vehicle</i>	Buffalo (Sve.) Peacock (Dig.)	Deer or lotus (Dig.)	Man (Sve.)	Lotus (Sve.) Tortoise (Dig.)	Alligator (Sve. & Dig.)	Cat (Sve.) Buffalo (Dig.)

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	MANAVI	VAIBORI (Fig. 72)	ACHYUPTA (Fig. 69)	MANASI (Fig. 75)	MAHAMANASI (Fig. 74)
<i>Hands</i>	Four	Four	Four	Two or four	Four
<i>Objects in hands</i>	S.—varada, rosary, bough of tree D.—trident	S.—sword, snake, shield, snake D.—snakes	S.—bow, sword, shield, arrow D.—sword	S. I—varada, vajra II—vara, vajra, rosary, vajra D.—	S.—varada, sword, vase, lance D.—rosary, vase, goad, garland
<i>Vehicle</i>	Blue-lotus and twig (S)	Snake (S) Lion (D)	Horse (S) Horse (D)	Swan, Lion (S) Snake (D)	Lion (S) Swan (D)
	S or Sve.—Śvetambara	D or Dig.—Digambara			

## OTHER JAIN DIVINITIES

	NAGAMESHA	KSHITRAPALA	GANESA	361 OR LAKSHMI	SANTIDHVI
<i>Hands</i>	—	Six or twenty	Two, four, six, nine, eighteen or one hundred and eight	Four	Four
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	—	Six-handed—club, noose, drum, bow, goad and Godika (?)	Parasu, varada, modaka, abhaya, etc.	S.—Flower, lotus D.—lotus	Lotus
<i>Vehicle</i>	—	Dog	Mouse	Elephant	Lotus
<i>Misc.</i>	Head of ram, antelope or goat; captain of Indra's foot forces, at whose command, transferred embryo of Mahāvīra from the body of Brāhmin Devananda to the womb of Kshatriyaci Trisala. Connected with procreation	Surrounded by Ananda and other Bhairava. Leads sixty-four Yoginis. Relation with Vajukabhairava mentioned in Jain texts	—	—	—

S—Śvetāmbara

D—Digambara



# JAIN DIKPALES

	INDRA	AGNI	YAMA	NRUTTI	VARUNA
<i>Direction</i>	East	South-East	South	South-West	West
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	Vajra	Spear and seven flames or bow, arrow	Staff	Club, sword and bow	Noose
<i>Spouse</i>	Sachi	Svaha	Chhaya	—	—
<i>Vehicle</i>	Elephant Airavata	Ram	Buffalo	Corpse or goblin (S) or bear (D)	Dolphin, fish

	VAYU	KUBERA	ISANA	BRAHMA (S)	NAGA (S)
<i>Direction</i>	North-West	North	North-East	Upper regions	Nether regions
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	Vajra or banner (S) Wooden weapon (D)	Goma, club	Bow and trident (S) Also skull (D)	Book and lotus	Snake
<i>Vehicle</i>	Deer	Pushpaka chariot (D) Man (S)	Bull	Swan	Lotus
<i>Spouse</i>	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Misc.</i>	—	—	—	Four heads	—

# NINE PLANETS (NAVAGRAHAS)

	RUN (SURYA)	MOON (CHANDRA)	MARS (MANGALA)	MERCURY (BUDDHA)	BEHASPATI
<i>Direction</i>	East	North-West	South	North	North-East
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	Two lotuses	Holds urn of nectar	Varada, spear, trident, club or shovel	Book or sword, shield, club and varada pose	Rosary and staff (S) Book, vase, rosary (D)
<i>Vehicle</i>	Chariot of seven steeds	Chariot of ten white horses	On earth	Swan or lion	Swan (S), Lotus (D)
	VENUS (SUKRA)	SATURN (SANI)	RAHU	KETU	
<i>Direction</i>	South-East	West	South-West	—	
<i>Attributes in hands</i>	Urn or threefold thread, snake, noose, rosary	Threefold thread (D)	Axe (S), Flag (D)	Cobra	
<i>Vehicle</i>	Snake	Tortoise (S)	Lion	Cobra	
	S—Svetambara	D—Digambara			



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[Abbreviations: S=Śvetāmbara; D=Digāmbara]  
(For other abbreviations see page 74)

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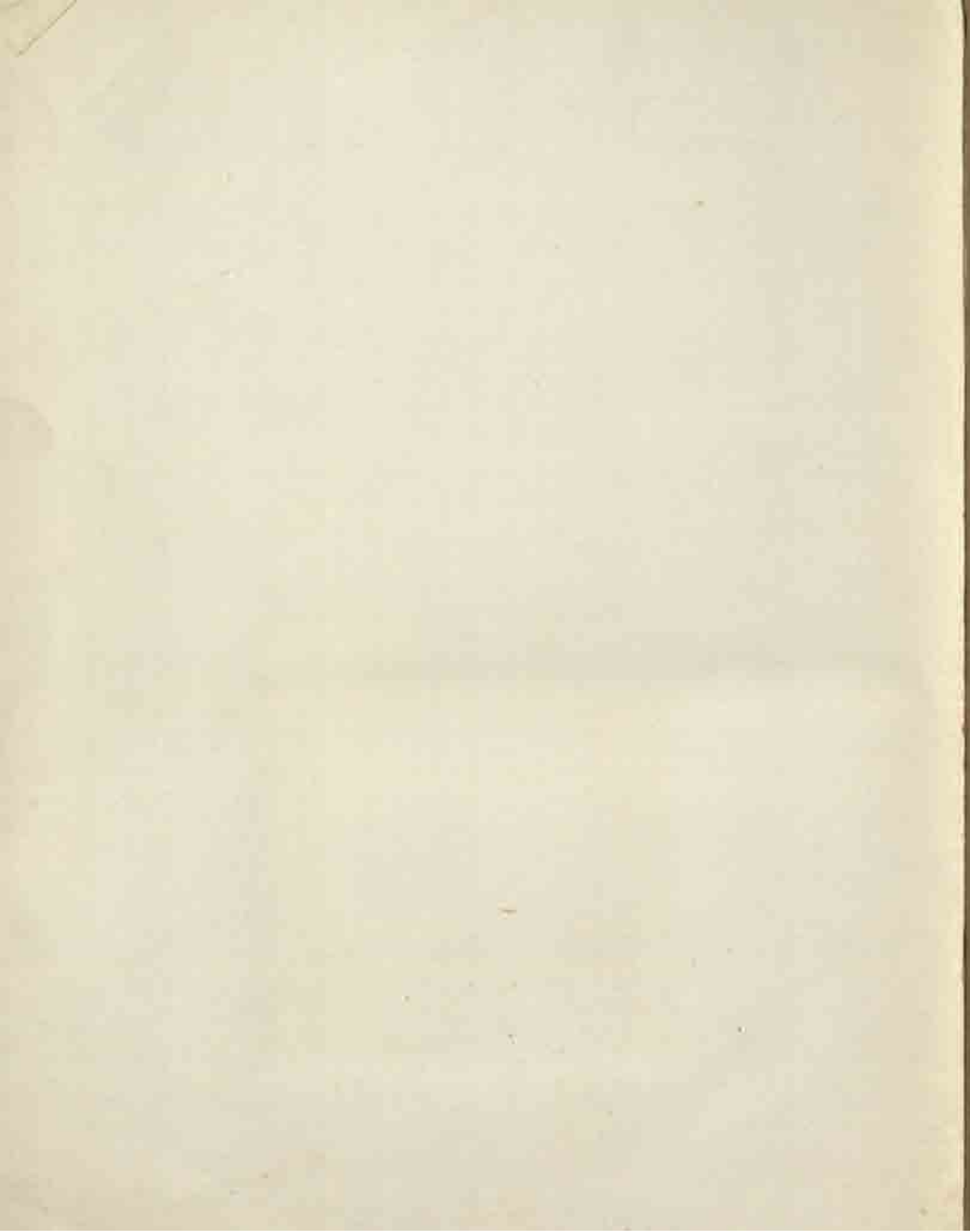
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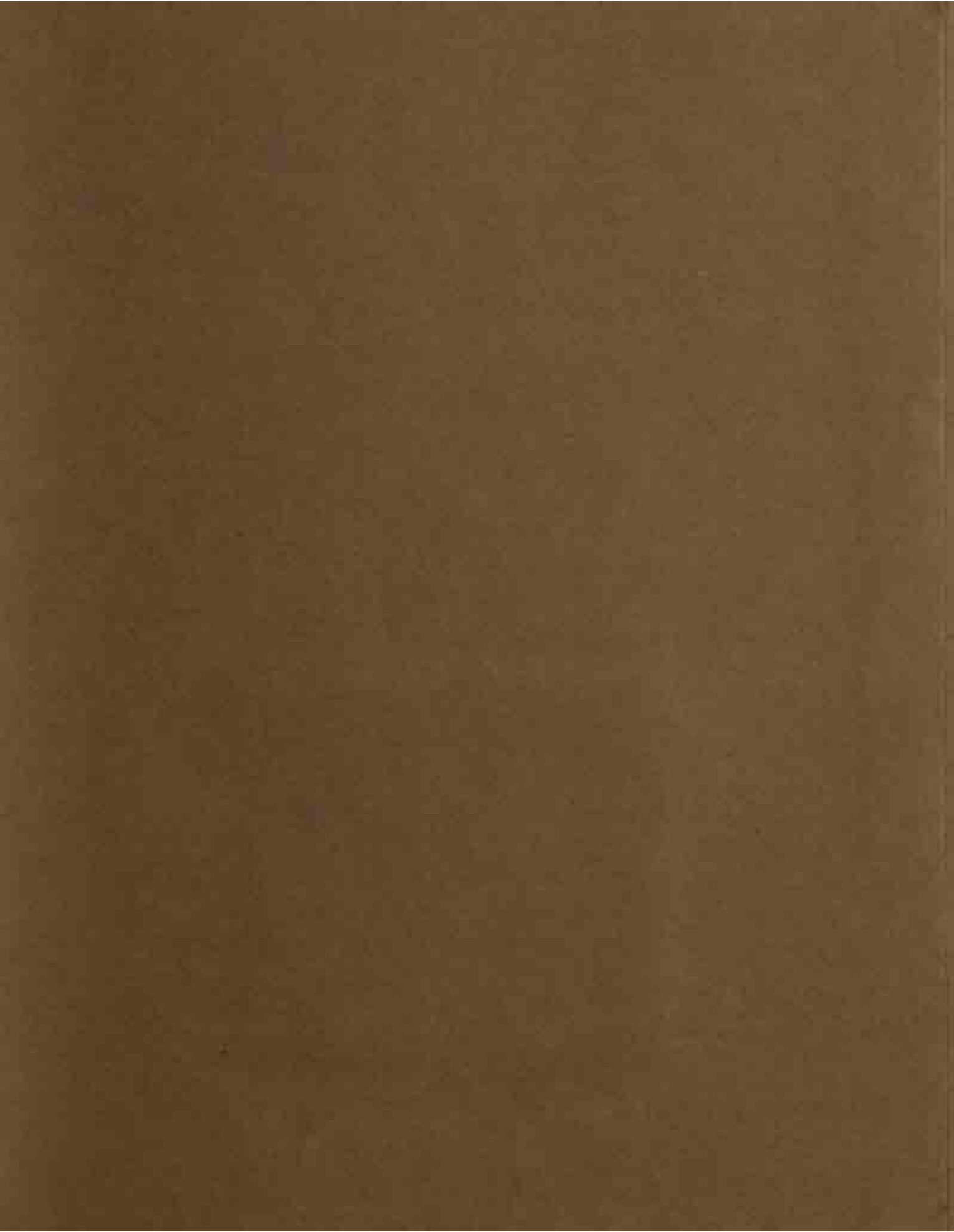
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